

## **ANDORRA (South West Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** The permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18.

**Fines:** On-the-spot.

**Fuel:** Leaded (98 octane), unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel (Gasoil) is available but not LPG available. It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Andorra before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of a crash helmet is compulsory.

**Motor Insurance:** Third party insurance is compulsory.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Child under 10 cannot travel as a front seat passenger.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas: 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas between 37 and 55 mph (60 and 90 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Andorra:**

- Spare bulbs
- Warning triangle
- Reflective yellow waistcoat

**Other rules/requirements in Andorra:**

Winter tyres are recommended.

Snow chains must be used when road conditions or signs indicate.

## **AUSTRIA (Central Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** Right

**Priority:** To the right, unless indicated otherwise. Most major roads have priority over others. Signs will be visible stating the priority. On mountain roads, if two vehicles cannot pass, the vehicle with the most difficult manoeuvre has right of way.

**Speed limits for light vehicles, unless otherwise indicated:** In built up areas: 50 kph / 31mph (in Graz, the speed limit is 30kph / 18mph) Outside built up areas: 100 kph (62 mph)

Motorway: 130kph / 80mph (minimum speed is 60kph / 37mph)

**Blood alcohol limit (beyond which driving is prohibited):** The maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.049 per cent. If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is between 0.05 per cent and 0.079 per cent a fine will be imposed, 0.08 per cent or more a severe fine and / or driving ban for Austria are imposed. A lower limit of 0.01 is applicable to new drivers who have held their licence under 2 years.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. The officer collecting the fine should issue an official receipt. For higher fines the driver will be asked to pay a deposit and remainder of the fine within two weeks. Parked vehicles that obstruct traffic may be towed away.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and Diesel available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available) and limited LPG available. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are accepted by larger filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Austria before travel.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 14 and less than 1.50 metres in height cannot travel as a front or rear seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system for their height / weight. Vehicles without such protection e.g. two-seater sports cars or vans / lorries may not be used at all to transport children under 14 years of age. Children under 14 years but over 1.50 metres in height must use the adult seat belt. Children 14 or over and over 1.35 metres in height are allowed to use a 'Dreipunktgurt' (three point seat belt) without a special child seat, if the belt does not cover the throat / neck of the child.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted. Fine €35.

**Lights:** Passing lights (dipped headlights) must be used when visibility is poor due to bad weather conditions. It is prohibited to drive with side lights (position lights only).

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas: up to 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas: 62 mph (100 km/h) and motorways: up to 80 mph (130 km/h). Vehicles not capable of sustaining a minimum speed of 37 mph (60 km/h) are not permitted on motorways. Mopeds must not exceed 45 km/h. The maximum recommended speed limit for vehicles with snow chains is 24 mph (40 km/h). Vehicles equipped with spiked tyres must not exceed 100 km/h on motorways and 80 km/h on other roads.

### **Compulsory equipment in Austria:**

- **Warning triangle** – Must conform to EC regulation 27 (for vehicles with more than two wheels).
- **First-aid kit** - Must be in a strong dirt proof box.
- **Reflective Jacket** - Every car driver has to carry a reflectorised jacket / waistcoat (compliant with European regulation EN471) which have to be used in the case of a breakdown or accident and even when setting up a warning triangle on the road. This regulation does not apply to mopeds/motorcycles, however it is recommended.
- **Winter equipment** – All Motorists have the legal obligation to adapt their vehicle to winter weather conditions. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> November and the 15<sup>th</sup> April vehicles must be fitted with winter tyres (which must be marked M&S on the side walls and have a minimum tread depth of 4mm) or all-season tyres which must be marked M&S (mud and snow) and if roads have a covering of snow, slush or ice outside these dates. Theoretically snow chains on summer tyres can be used as an alternative to winter tyres where the road is heavily covered with snow and no damage to the road surface is caused by the snow chains. In practice, because road conditions and the weather cannot be predicted, use of winter tyres is effectively compulsory.  
**Note:** It is the driver's legal responsibility to carry the required winter equipment; therefore, it is essential to check that it is included in any hire car.

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands -free kits are permitted

**Drivers are obliged to have:** 1 warning triangle, 1 first aid kit

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** No

**Practical information:** A flashing green light means that the lights are about to change to red, enabling vehicles close to the lights to pass through. Other vehicles should prepare to stop. A yellow light accompanied by a red Light means that the lights are about to change to green.

### **Road tolls in Europe:**

All vehicles using Austrian motorways and expressways must display a "motorway" (vignette) label in your windscreen if you wish to drive on Austrian motorways. The stickers, which are valid for one calendar year, two months or 10 days, may be purchased at some petrol stations located close to the border in neighbouring countries and in Austria: at the frontier, at petrol stations, post offices or in ÖAMTC offices.

A special vignette the 'Korridor Vignette' is required for vehicles travelling from Hohenehms to Horbranz on the German Border if a standard vignette has not been purchased. Fines for driving without a vignette can be severe, minimum €120.

Tolls are also payable when passing through certain motorway tunnels.

### **Other rules/requirements in Austria:**

The use of the horn is generally prohibited in Vienna and in the vicinity of hospitals.

When a school bus has stopped to let children on and off, indicated by a yellow flashing light, drivers travelling in the same direction are not permitted to overtake.

### **Belarus (Eastern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden, nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers blood.



**Driving licences:** Minimum age at which a visitor may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18. National driving licences, which bear the photo of the holder, are recognised for three months but an International Driving Permit is recommended. An International Driving Permit is compulsory for licences not incorporating a photograph.

**Fines:** The police can fine motorists and demand payment on the spot for minor traffic offences.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (80, 92 & 95 octane), 98 octane seldom available, diesel (Solyarka) and LPG are available. No leaded petrol. Up to 20 litres of fuel can be imported free of duty if held in a metal container (must be declared on entry). Credit cards are accepted at large filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Belarus before travel.

**Lights:** Vehicles must use lights in poor visibility and when towing or being towed. Avoid night driving.

**Motorcycles:** Wearing of crash helmets compulsory. It is compulsory to use dipped headlights at all times.

**Motor Insurance:** Third party insurance compulsory, fully comprehensive insurance recommended. Green Card accepted. Short term insurance is available at the border.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Child under 12 cannot travel as front seat passenger. Children under the age of 12 must be seated in a suitable child restraint system.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs for private vehicles without trailers: In residential zones 12 mph (20km/h), in built-up areas 37 mph (60 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) and up to 68 mph (110 km/h) on different sections of the Brest-Moscow motorway. All motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43 mph (70 km/h)

#### **Compulsory equipment in Belarus:**

- First-aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning triangle - not required for two wheeled vehicles

#### **Other rules/requirements in Belarus:**

A road tax is payable at the frontier.

State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. Motorists entering Belarus are advised to ignore 'private facilitators' who offer to help travellers pass through checkpoints and border crossings.

It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

It is against the law to drive a dirty car.

Radar detectors are strictly prohibited.

It is advisable to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

All foreign visitors are required to purchase health insurance on arrival.

Poor road signs between small towns.

Winter tyres are not a compulsory requirement, however they are highly recommended. All year tyres and snow chains may be used instead of winter tyres.

### **BELGIUM (Western Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority:** to the right, unless signalled otherwise if a driver stops, they lose the priority.

**Drinking and driving:** Maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.049 per cent. If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is between 0.05 and 0.08 per cent you will be banned from driving for three hours and issued an on the spot fine of €137.50. If you refuse to pay the fine the public prosecutor will prosecute and impose a fine up to €2,750, 0.08 per cent or more and on the spot fine of up to €550 and a ban from driving for at least six hours; if prosecution (more than 0.15 per cent) fine up to €11,000 and a licence suspension up to five years. However, if you have held your licence for less than two years an on the spot fine will not be imposed, you will automatically be prosecuted.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. The officer collecting the fine must issue an official receipt showing the amount of the fine. Motorists can refuse to pay an on-the-spot fine; a foreign motorist refusing to do so may be invited to make a

consignation (deposit) and if he does not his vehicle will be impounded, by the police and permanently confiscated if the deposit is not paid within 96 hours. Fines can be paid for in cash euros or debit / credit card.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol (anti-wear additive available). Petrol in a can is permitted, but forbidden aboard ferries and Eurotunnel. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Belgium before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under 18 and less than 1.35m must use a suitable child-restraint system whether seated in the front or rear seat of a vehicle. Exception: When two child restraint systems are being used on the rear seats and there isn't adequate room to place a third child restraint system, then the third child may travel on the back seat protected by the adult seat belt. A child under three cannot be transported in a vehicle without a child seat/restraint. It is prohibited to use a rear facing child seat on a front seat with a frontal airbag unless it is deactivated.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits for light vehicles, unless otherwise indicated:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas up to 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) and on motorways and dual carriageways separated by a central reservation 74 mph (120 km/h). The minimum speed on motorways 43 mph (70km/h).

A limit of 30 km/h may be indicated at the entrance to a built up area.

Vehicles with spiked tyres must not exceed 60 km/h on normal roads and 90 km/h on motorways / dual carriageways.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Belgium:**

- **Reflective jacket** - Drivers stranded on a Belgian motorway or on a major road (usually four-lane roads, called 'route pour automobiles' - sign E17), stopping on places where parking is not allowed, must wear a reflective safety jacket as soon as they leave their vehicle. Fine for non-compliance €50 is applicable, but the amount can be much higher (€55 - €1,375) if the driver refuses to pay or in a circumstance where the driver has to go to court (for example in the event of an accident). The jacket is compulsory for vehicles registered in Belgium. Whilst a foreign registered vehicle will not be fined for not carrying a reflective jacket if there is a police check, he/she could be fined for not wearing a jacket in case the vehicle breaks down.
- **Warning triangle** - Compulsory for vehicles with more than two wheels.

**Road tolls in Europe:** Motorways are free of charge in Belgium.

Except for Liefkenshoek Tunnel near Antwerp car Toll e5.50 one way.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Belgium:**

First-aid kit and fire extinguisher recommended as their carriage is compulsory for Belgian-registered vehicles.

The majority of roundabouts have signs showing that traffic on the roundabout has priority. If there is no sign present, (very few roundabouts) traffic joining from the right has priority.

A new road sign has been introduced banning the use of cruise control on congested motorways and can also appear during motorway road works. A white disc bordered in red, bearing the word 'Peage' in black indicates that drivers must stop. The Dutch word 'Tol' sometimes replaces 'Peage'.

Any vehicle standing must have its engine switched off, unless absolutely necessary.

A car navigation system with maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras is permitted but equipment which actively searches for speed cameras or interferes with police equipment is prohibited.

The police can impound a vehicle with an unsafe load.

Spiked tyres are permitted from the 1<sup>st</sup> November until the 31<sup>st</sup> March on vehicles weighing up to a maximum of 3.5tonnes. Snow chains are only permitted on snow or ice covered roads. Winter tyres are permitted from the 1<sup>st</sup> October until the 30<sup>th</sup> April, a lower speed limit needs to be adhered to and the maximum design speed for the tyres displayed on a sticker on the dashboard.

Vehicles with spiked tyres must display at the rear a white disc with a red reflectorised border showing the figure "60", when the spiked tyres are applied.

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands -free kits are permitted

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** no

**Practical information:**

Green road signs signify motorways - blue road signs signify other roads - In Belgian Flanders, some road signs give French towns in Dutch only. Therefore, please bear in mind that Lille is called Rijsel in Dutch, and Paris is Parijs.

Please note! Going through an amber traffic light is considered the same as going through a red light, and may lead to a fine. Forgetting to lock your car is an offence punishable by a 150 euro fine.

### **BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.031 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or suspension of driving licence.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18. It is recommended that an International Driving Permit is obtained to accompany your UK driving licence.

**Fines:** On-the-spot or, for more serious violations, sentence by local court. An official receipt should be obtained.

**Fuel:** Leaded petrol (98 octane), unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and diesel (dizel) is available. LPG is available at approximately 60 filling stations. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are widely accepted throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina; check with your card issuer for usage before travel.

**Lights:** The use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Motorcycles:** The use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/children in cars:** A person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. Children under 12 cannot travel as front seat passengers. Children under five must use a suitable child-restraint system.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 37 mph (60 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) but 62 mph (100 km/h) on dual carriageways and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Bosnia Herzegovina:**

- Spare bulbs
- First aid kit
- Warning triangle - two triangles required if towing a trailer.
- Winter tyres or M&S tyres - compulsory between the 15<sup>th</sup> November and the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Other rules/requirement in Bosnia Herzegovina:**

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Bosnia Herzegovina and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving.

It is recommended that snow chains are carried as their use is compulsory if the relevant road sign is displayed or the snow covering is over 5cm deep.

During winter conditions, drivers are obliged to remove all snow and ice from their vehicles or they will be fined. Spiked tyres are forbidden.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera PoI (Points of Interest)' function deactivated. The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

### **BULGARIA (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more the driver will be prosecuted and receive a fine and driving suspension. The police carry out random breath tests. If the test is positive, the driver will be required to undergo a blood test carried out by a hospital doctor.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18. It is recommended that an International Driving Permit (IDP) accompanies older licences that are not a European community's model.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. Wheel clamps are in use for illegally parked cars. Vehicles causing an obstruction will be towed away.

**Fuel:** Leaded petrol is no longer available. Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations but not all local stations in small towns accept international cards; check with your card issuer for usage in Bulgaria before travel.

**Lights:** The use of dipped headlights during daylight hours throughout the year is recommended, however their use is compulsory from the 1<sup>st</sup> November to the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Motorcycles:** Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Motorcyclists must have their lights on at all times.

**Motor insurance:** Third party insurance compulsory. Green Cards are recognised.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under 12 cannot travel as a front seat passenger. Children must be placed in special restraints suitable for their size.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas: 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas: 55 mph (90 km/h) and motorways: 80 mph (130 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Bulgaria:**

- **Fire extinguisher** – Not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **First-aid kit**
- **Warning triangle** - not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **Reflective jackets** - The wearing of a reflective jacket is compulsory for any person who has to step out of their car, day or night in case of breakdown or emergency on a motorway. This regulation also applies to motorcyclists.

**Other rules/requirements Bulgaria:**

In built-up areas it is prohibited to use the horn between 2200hrs and 0600hrs (0900hrs on public holidays), and between 1200hrs and 1600hrs.

Visiting motorists are required to drive through a liquid disinfectant on entry for which the charge is (approx) €4, and also purchase a 'vignette' (road tax). The vignette is available at the border, UAB offices, most petrol stations and offices of the CI and DZI Bank, weekly, monthly or annually. Heavy fines are imposed for non-compliance.

Snow chains are permitted. Their use can become compulsory according to road conditions, in which case this is indicated by the international road sign. Spiked tyres are forbidden.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera Poi (Points of Interest)' function deactivated. The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

In one way streets parking is on the left only.

## **CROATIA (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden for all drivers less than 24 years of age - nil percentage of alcohol allowed in driver's blood. Legal limit for drivers 24 years and over; alcohol in drivers blood is 0.05%, exceptions to this rule apply to professional drivers. Tests for narcotics may be performed if tests prove positive severe consequences include confiscation of vehicle, severe fine and removal of driving licence. It is prohibited to drive after taking any medicine whose side effects may affect the ability to drive a motor vehicle.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

**Fines:** The police officer will impose a fine on the spot; the fine must be paid within eight days at a post office or bank. The police may hold your passport until evidence of payment is produced. The driving licence of a foreign motorist can be suspended for up to 8 days for driving with excess alcohol, driving without prescribed medical aids e.g. glasses, driving in a state of exhaustion or whilst ill. The licence must be collected within 3 days of the end of suspension.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel (dizel) available and LPG available at most filling stations located on motorways. It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Croatia before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights are compulsory for all vehicles in reduced visibility, fine imposed for non-compliance.

Dipped headlights are compulsory in the daytime from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday in March (out of the daylight saving time period), fine for none compliance.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both the driver and passenger. Children under 12 cannot travel as a passenger. A fine will be imposed if the passenger on a motorcycle is found to be under the influence of alcohol or narcotics.

**Motor insurance:** Third-party compulsory. It is recommended that all visitors obtain a green card prior to travel to facilitate insurance formalities in case of an accident. The green card must cover Croatia (HR) as well as Bosnia Herzegovina if travelling on a 20km section of coastline at Neum, along the Dalmatian coastal highway.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under the age of 12 cannot travel as a front seat passenger, with the exception of a child under 2 years seated in a suitable child seat. The seat must be fitted facing in the opposite direction of travel with the passenger airbags turned off.

Children from the age of 2 up to 5 years of age must be seated in a suitable child seat; other children must be seated using a suitable child restraint, using a booster seat where necessary.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers.

In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) but 68 mph (110 km/h) on expressways and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways, unless otherwise indicated by road signs. If towing a trailer/caravan the speed limit is reduced to 55 mph (90 km/h).

All motorists under 24 years of age must not exceed: 49 mph (80 km/h) on normal roads outside built-up areas: 62 mph (100 km/h) on expressways and 74 mph (120 km/h) on motorways.

Minimum speed on motorways: 37 mph (60 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Croatia:**

- **Spare bulbs** - This does not apply if the vehicle is fitted with xenon, neon, LED or similar lights
- **First-aid kit** (excluding motorcycles)
- **Warning triangle** - two triangles required if towing a trailer. (Excludes motorcycles).
- **Snow chains** - During winter months, especially in the Gorski Kotar and Lika regions.\*
- **Reflective jacket** - All drivers of motor vehicles (except motorcycles with sidecars and mopeds under 50cc) must have a reflective safety jacket (EN-471) in the vehicle and wear it whenever they have to get out of the vehicle at the roadside, in an emergency. Be aware however that car hire companies may not supply them to persons hiring vehicles.

**Other rules/requirements in Croatia:**

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

\*It is generally prudent to have winter equipment ready between November and the end of April. This may consist of winter tyres marked M+S on the side walls or snow chains for the driving wheels. Vehicles not adapted to winter conditions may be prohibited from driving and can also encounter a fine. Snow tyres must have a minimum tread depth of 4 millimeters.

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Croatia and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving the country.

Radar detectors are forbidden.

### **CYPRUS (REPUBLIC OF) (Eastern Mediterranean)**

**Drinking and driving:** The maximum legal level of alcohol in the blood is 0.049 per cent. Persons suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol may be subjected to a blood test.

**Driving licence:** All national driving licences accepted. Minimum age for driving a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle is 18.

**Fines:** The Cyprus traffic police are empowered to impose on-the-spot fines for traffic offences.

**Fuel:** LPG is not available. Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and diesel is available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available).

It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations, check with your card issuer for use in Cyprus before travel.

**Lights:** Vehicle lights must be used between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise. Spotlights are prohibited.

**Motorcycles:** Wearing of crash helmets compulsory, for the rider and pillion passenger.

**Motor insurance:** Third-party compulsory.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under five cannot travel as a front seat passenger. Children over five and under ten must use a suitable child restraint system.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas: 31 mph (50 km/h) or 40 mph (65 km/h) depending on the road, outside built-up areas: 49 mph (80 km/h) and 62 mph (100 km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways: 40 mph (65 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Republic of Cyprus:**

- **Warning triangles** – two must be carried

**Other rules/requirements in Republic of Cyprus:**

Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right.

Use of vehicle horn prohibited between 2200 and 0600 hours, and in the vicinity of hospitals.

Spiked tyres and snow chains are permitted on mountain roads in winter.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera

Pol (Points of Interest)' function deactivated.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

Eating and drinking whilst driving is prohibited.

### **CZECH REPUBLIC (Central Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Fine between 25,000 and 50,000 Czech crown (CZK) and withdrawal of the driving licence for up to two years. Frequent random testing takes place; police can also test for drugs by testing saliva.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is considered a criminal offence.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle up to 125cc 17, over 125cc (max 25kW) 18 years.

Photo card licences are accepted - licences that do not incorporate a photo must be accompanied by an [International Driving Permit](#).

**Fines:** On-the-spot up to 5,000 CZK, maximum fine for traffic offence 100,000 CZK. An official receipt should be obtained.

The police are empowered to retain the driving licence in case of committing a serious traffic offence. Illegally parked vehicles may be clamped or towed away.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol 'natural' (95 and 98 octane), diesel (nafta) and LPG (autoplyn or plyn) available. Up to 10 litres of petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Czech Republic before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory throughout the year. Fine for non-compliance: approximately 2,000 CZK.

Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

**Passengers/children in cars:** All passengers must use seat belts. Child passengers (persons with a weight under 36kg and under 150cm in height) are not permitted to travel in a vehicle unless using a suitable restraint system.

A child seated in the front seats of a vehicle using a suitable child restraint system where the airbag is activated must travel facing forward.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) and motorways (for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg and buses) 80 mph (130 km/h).

On expressways that pass through built up areas 50mph (80 km/h).

Maximum speed with snow chains 31 mph (50km/h).

At railway crossings drivers must not exceed 18 mph (30 km/h) for 50m before the crossing. The arrival of a train is indicated by red flashing lights / red or yellow flag.

Vehicles that are constructed with a maximum speed of 49mph (80 km/h) or under are not permitted to travel on motorways.



## **Compulsory equipment in Czech Republic:**

- **First-aid kit**
- **Warning triangle** - not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **Winter equipment** - Vehicles must be fitted with either winter tyres (which must be marked M&S) or carry snow chains between the 1<sup>st</sup> November and the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Dependant upon weather conditions (if roads are covered with snow) this period may be extended. As snow chains can only be used when roads are completely covered, we recommend that winter tyres are fitted. The minimum depth on winter tyres is 4 millimeters.  
A road sign showing the picture of a car and a snowflake is used to designate these road sections; the same road sign with a line across indicates the end of this restriction. One of these sections is also on the motorway D1 from Prague to Brno.
- **Reflective jacket** – EU standard EN471. The driver of a vehicle with 2 or more axles must carry a reflective waistcoat which has to be used in the event of a breakdown or emergency outside a built up area on expressways and motorways. It has to be worn when exiting the vehicle in such circumstances and therefore must be kept within the car (not in the boot). The waistcoat is recommended for passengers and riders of mopeds and motorcycles.

## **Other rules/requirements in Czech Republic:**

Motorway tax is payable for the use of motorways and express roads. A windscreen sticker must be displayed on all four-wheeled vehicles up to 3.5t as evidence of payment. Stickers can be purchased at the Czech frontier, UAMK branch offices, petrol stations or post offices for periods of one year, one month or ten consecutive days. Fines imposed for non-display.

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering the Czech Republic. If any damage occurs inside the country a police report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

The use of an audible warning device is only permitted in built up areas to avoid imminent danger, they are prohibited between 2000hrs and 0600hrs, and in Prague.

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera PoI (Points of Interest)' function deactivated. The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

## **DENMARK (Northern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream exceeds 0.05 per cent severe penalties include licence suspension, fines or imprisonment depending on the amount of excess.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. Visitors who infringe traffic regulations can expect to be fined. If the visitor does not accept the fine, the police will take the matter to court to be settled by a judge. The police may retain the vehicle until such time. Vehicles parked against regulations may be taken away by the police at the owner's expense.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (92 and 95 octane) and diesel is available, limited availability of LPG. No leaded petrol, a leaded petrol substitute is available called Millennium. Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries and Eurotunnel. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for use in Denmark before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under three years must be seated in a restraint system adapted to their size. Children over three and less than 1.35m must be seated in a child restraint system suitable for their height and weight. A child must not be placed in the front seat with their back to the road if the vehicle is fitted with an active airbag.

All rear seat passengers must wear a seatbelt, so it is no longer possible to transport three children if there are only two seatbelts.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers; In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) or 55 mph (90 km/h) and motorways 68 mph (110 km/h) or 80 mph (130 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Denmark:**

- **A red warning triangle** – In case of accident / breakdown

**Other rules/requirements in Denmark:**

It is recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a fire extinguisher and a first-aid kit. While not compulsory, it is also recommended that a reflective jacket be carried to be used in the event of the driver having to step out of the vehicle in an emergency/breakdown situation.

Generally there is a duty to give way to traffic approaching from the right. A bold line, a line of white triangles (shark's teeth) painted across the road or a white triangle with red border indicates that you must stop and give way to traffic on the road you are entering.

When roads are wet or slushy, speed must be reduced as far as possible to prevent other road users from being splashed.

It is prohibited to use radar detectors.

Spiked tyres may be used between 1<sup>st</sup> November and the 15<sup>th</sup> April, they must be on all 4 wheels.

Right hand drive vehicles must have wing mirrors on both sides of the vehicle.

Private cars must be equipped with an exterior side mirror and an interior rear view mirror.

## **ESTONIA (Eastern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in driver's blood, fine and/or imprisonment for non-compliance.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

**Fines:** The police can impose fines on the spot. The police control speeds closely and will give fines for even the smallest speeding offences. Illegally parked cars will be clamped. Heavy fines can be imposed for unlawful parking.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted, subject to payment of excise duty at the frontier. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for use in Estonia before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for driver and passenger.

**Motor insurance:** Third-party compulsory.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children too small to wear seat belts must travel in a child seat adapted to their size.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front seat occupants to wear seat belts. Rear seat belts must be worn if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) but up to 68 mph (110 km/h) on some roads during the summer months. Motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 55 mph (90 km/h) outside built-up areas.

**Compulsory equipment in Estonia:**

- **First-aid kit**
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Two wheel chocks** (blocks of wood or plastic to put under a vehicles wheels when parked, to prevent it from moving)
- **Warning triangle** – not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **Winter tyres** - (with a minimum tread depth of 3 millimeters) between the 1<sup>st</sup> December and the 1<sup>st</sup> March, however these dates may vary from October to April according to the weather conditions.

**Other rules/requirements in Estonia:**

It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as a fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) is also carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas outside Estonia. The border police may ask visitors for proof of sufficient personal insurance cover on entry. It is prohibited to overtake a tram which has stopped to let passengers on or off. Motorists must pay a toll to enter the city of Tallin.

## **FINLAND (Northern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Breath tests and blood tests can be carried out at random. If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more the driver will be penalised which could include a daily fine or imprisonment and withdrawal of driving licence.

The police test for alcohol and narcotics.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (not exceeding 125cc) 16, (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Motorists banned from driving in an EU or EEA country are not permitted to drive in Finland.

**Fines:** Police may impose but not collect on-the-spot fines for parking and other minor infringements, up to €115. The fine is payable at a bank within two weeks.

For more serious offences there is a system of daily fines with a minimum of €6 per day. The police can remove an illegally parked vehicle, release fee up to €170.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and Diesel is available but not LPG.

Leaded petrol is not available.

Up to 10 litres of petrol in a can permitted.

Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for use in Finland before travel.

**Lights:** All motor vehicles must use their headlights in and outside built up areas at all times throughout the year.

**Passengers/children in cars:** A child less than 1.35m travelling in a car, van or lorry must be seated in a child seat or child restraint.

A child under three years old may not be transported in a vehicle without a child restraint / seat, except in a taxi.

Where a child restraint/seat is not available, a child three years and over must travel in the rear seat of the vehicle using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all children are safely restrained.

All child restraints/seats will have to conform to the ECE standard 44/03 or EU directive 77/541EEC.

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all children under 15 are safely restrained, the penalty is €35.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. Inside built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) or 62 mph (100 km/h), according to the quality of road, with 49 mph (80 km/h) being the upper limit where there are no signs, on motorways 74 mph (120km/h).

No minimum speed on motorways.

Temporary speed limits may be enforced on some or all roads by the local road districts. Reduced speed limits apply during the winter months October to March generally 12 mph (20 km/h) less than standard limits.

### **Compulsory equipment in Finland:**

- **Warning triangle**
- **Winter tyres** - marked M&S on the sidewall are compulsory between 1 December and the end of February. The recommended minimum tread depth is 3 millimeters for winter tyres, but in difficult weather conditions it is 5 millimeters.
- **Reflective jacket** - Pedestrians must use reflectors in the hours of darkness (any type of reflector is accepted). A car driver / passenger who steps out of a vehicle becomes a pedestrian and therefore must have a reflector.

### **Other rules/requirement in Finland:**

Radar detectors are prohibited.

Spiked tyres may be used from the 1<sup>st</sup> November to the first Monday after Easter, if used they must be fitted on all wheels.

Snow chains may be used temporarily when required by conditions, drivers must be careful to avoid damage to the road surface.

Beware game (elk, reindeer, etc) as this constitutes a very real danger on some roads.

It is prohibited to sound a horn in towns and villages except in cases of immediate danger.

## **FRANCE & MONACO (Western Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more (0.02% for bus/coach drivers), severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and / or confiscation of the driving licence.

Saliva drug tests will be used to detect drivers under the influence of drugs – severe penalties as above.

**Fines:** On-the-spot fines or 'deposits' are severe. An official receipt should be issued. Vehicles parking contrary to regulations may be towed away and impounded.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel (Gazole) and LPG available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol "Super carburant" available or lead substitute additive). Petrol in a can is permitted but forbidden by ferry and Eurotunnel operators.

A new type of fuel, the SP95-E10 (Sans Plomb 95 Octane, Ethanol 10% = Lead Free 95 Octane containing 10% of Ethanol) is now being sold throughout France. This fuel is not suitable for use in all cars and you should check compatibility with your vehicle manufacturer before using it. If in doubt use the standard SP95 or SP98 Octane unleaded fuel which continues to be available alongside the new fuel.

Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in France & Monaco before travel. There are now many automatic petrol pumps operated by credit / debit card however, cards issued in the UK are not always accepted by these pumps.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights must be used in poor daytime visibility. It is highly recommended by the French Government that 4+-wheeled vehicles use dipped headlights day and night (already compulsory for motorcycles).

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under the age of 10 are not permitted to travel on the front seats of vehicles, unless there are no rear seats or the rear seats are already occupied with children under 10 or there are no seat belts. In these circumstances a child must not be placed in the front seats with their back to the road if the vehicle is fitted with a passenger airbag, unless it is deactivated. They must travel in an approved child seat or restraint adapted to their size.

A baby up to 13kg must be carried in a rear facing baby seat.

A child between 9 and 18kg must be seated in a child seat and a child from 15kg up to 10 years can use a booster seat with a seat belt or a harness.

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure all passengers under 18 are appropriately restrained.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h), but 68 mph (110 km/h) on urban motorways and dual carriageways separated by a central reservation and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways.

Lower speed limits of 49 mph (80 km/h) outside built-up areas, 62 mph (100 km/h) on dual carriageways and 68 mph (110 km/h) on motorways apply in wet weather and to visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years. Additionally, speed limits are reduced on stretches of motorways in built up areas. Minimum speed limits on motorways 49mph (80km/h).

**Note:** Holders of EU driving licenses exceeding the speed limit by more than 40 km/h will have their licenses confiscated on the spot by the police.

**Compulsory equipment in France and Monaco:**

- **Warning triangle** (excludes motorcycles)
- **Snow chains** - must be fitted to vehicles using snow-covered roads in compliance with the relevant road sign.
- **Reflective jackets (EN471)** - one reflective jacket in the vehicle. This does not apply to drivers of two-wheeled and three-wheeled vehicles.

**Other rules/requirements in France and Monaco:**

It is recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs.

In built-up areas give way to traffic coming from the right "priorité a droite".

At signed roundabouts bearing the words "Vous n'avez pas la priorité" or "Cédez le passage" traffic on the roundabout has priority; where no such sign exists traffic entering the roundabout has priority.

Overtaking stationary trams is prohibited when passengers are boarding / alighting.

Parking discs for 'blue zone' parking areas can be obtained from police stations, tourist offices and some shops.

In built up areas the use of the horn is prohibited except in cases of immediate danger.

Apparatus with a screen which can distract a driver (such as television, video, DVD equipment) should be positioned in places where the driver is unable to see them. This excludes GPS systems. It is prohibited to touch or program the device unless parked in a safe place.

It is absolutely prohibited to carry, transport or use radar detectors. Failure to comply with this regulation involves a fine of up to 1500 Euros and the vehicle and/or device may be confiscated.

**Road tolls in Europe:** Tolls (péage) are levied in France for all vehicles on many motorways by several toll operators. Only in Alsace, Lorraine, Brittany and on parts of the A75 can motorways be used largely free of charge. They may also have an entry and exit station and you will be given an entry ticket. You must give this to the cashier on exiting that section of the road. You will be charged for that section, but if you lose your ticket, you will be charged the longest distance. **All toll booths accept credit cards**, so you can pay cash, credit or use a pass.

Toll charges depend on distance and the tariff amount depends on the type of vehicle. The toll amounts also depend on the costs for building the route.

*Automated toll payment used to be only possible for users with a French bank account. But now tolltickets and its service partners provide a Liber-t Box to all European users outside France - without the need for a French bank account!*

**(At the moment not available to AU residents. We are in contact with [www.tolltickets.com](http://www.tolltickets.com) and are working on a simple solution)**

**If you have an EU address you could pre purchase a short term pass online**



## **GERMANY (Central Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority:** to the right, unless indicated otherwise

In Germany, pedestrians about to cross the road in the proper way have right of way (in France, Pedestrians already crossing the road in the proper manner have priority). Any pedestrian waiting to cross at a designated crossing point therefore has to wait until drivers allow him to cross. Proximity of a pedestrian crossing where school children cross

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.050 per cent or more, penalties include fines and the licence holder can be banned from driving in Germany. The blood alcohol level is nil percent for drivers aged under 21 or drivers who have held their licence for less than 2 years, should even a small amount of alcohol be detected in the blood the fine is €250.

**Fines:** On-the-spot fine or deposit. Should a foreign motorist refuse to pay their vehicle can be confiscated. Motorists can be fined for such things as exceeding speed limits, using abusive language, making derogatory signs and running out of petrol on a motorway.

Wheel clamps are not used in Germany but vehicles causing obstruction can be towed away.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and diesel available. LPG is also available from more than 5000 stations.

No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available).

Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries and Eurotunnel.

Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Germany before travel.

**Lights:** It is recommended to use dipped headlights or day time running lights at all times. It is compulsory during daylight hours if fog, snow or rain restrict visibility.

Driving with sidelights (parking lights) alone is not allowed. Vehicles must have their lights on in tunnels.

**Passengers/children:** A child less than 1.5m and under 12 years old travelling in any type of vehicle must be seated in an approved child seat or child restraint. Where a child restraint / seat is not available because other children are secured by a child restraint/seat, a child three years and over must travel in the rear seat of the vehicle using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat.

A child under three years old may not be transported in a vehicle without a suitable child restraint/seat.

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all children are safely restrained.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 62 mph (100 km/h) and on dual carriageways and motorways a recommended maximum of 80 mph (130 km/h).

Minimum speed on motorways: 37 mph (60 km/h).

In bad weather conditions, when visibility is below 50m, the maximum speed limit is 50km/h.

The maximum speed limit for vehicles with snow chains is 31mph (50 km/h).

**Compulsory equipment in Germany:**

n/a

**Other rules/requirements in Germany:**

It is not compulsory for visiting UK motorists to carry a warning triangle, but they are strongly advised to do so, as all drivers must signal their vehicle in case of breakdown, and it is a compulsory requirement for residents.

It is recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs.

Slow-moving vehicles must stop at suitable places and let others pass. It is prohibited to overtake or pass a school bus that is approaching a stopping point. In

all other cases of passing buses it has to be with caution. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera Poi (Points of Interest)' function deactivated. Should you be unable to deactivate this function the GPS system must not be carried.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

All motorists have the obligation to adapt their vehicles to winter weather conditions. This includes but is not limited to winter tyres and anti-freeze fluid for the washer system. Extreme weather may additionally require snow chains.

The law does not specify which type of tyre is 'appropriate' the general opinion is that any type of tyre except summer tyres is appropriate, including all-year tyres.

Winter tyres must bear the mark M&S or display the snowflake on the side wall.

Motorists, whose car is equipped with summer tyres while there is snow and ice, may not take the car on the road.

Motorists in violation face fines of €20. If they actually obstruct traffic, the fine is €40.

**Emission Sticker:** Restrictions on the circulation of vehicles are enforced in several German cities, in order to reduce the levels of emission of fine particulates in some areas. The areas where restrictions apply will be indicated by signs "Umweltzone" showing coloured vignettes ("Plakette") - green, yellow and red. To enter these areas, drivers will have to stick a vignette on their vehicle windscreen, this can be obtained from technical inspection centres or approved garages, fine for non-compliance €40.00.

The owner of the vehicle (German or foreign) is required to present the registration certificate of the vehicle and pay a fee of 5 to 10 Euros. The colour of the vignette issued will depend on the type of engine and the Euro classification of the vehicle.

The fee is a 'one-off' charge and remains valid as long as it remains valid in any German City as long as it remains fixed in the vehicle i.e. not transferred to another vehicle.

All Hertz Germany registered vehicles carry this sticker. However Hertz vehicles rented outside Germany do not carry this sticker.

For further information, please follow the link below:

[http://www.umwelt-plakette.de/int\\_england.php?SID=77464e7c300d62b13c796a454179423c](http://www.umwelt-plakette.de/int_england.php?SID=77464e7c300d62b13c796a454179423c)

## Road tolls in Europe:

There are no toll roads in Germany. Exceptions are the Warnow Tunnel near Rostock and the Herren tunnel connecting Lübeck and Travemünde near Bremen in the North east of Germany.

### **GIBRALTAR (South West Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Maximum level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 80 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood / 35 micrograms of alcohol on 100 millilitres of breath or 107 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of urine.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle is 18.

**Fines:** No on-the-spot fines, except when a vehicle is clamped or towed away.

**Fuel:** Leaded petrol and LPG is not available. Unleaded petrol (97 octane) and diesel is available. Petrol in a can permitted on payment of duty (purpose made steel container).

Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Gibraltar before travel.

**Lights:** The use of full headlights is prohibited; dipped headlights only during the hours of darkness.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under 3 must use a child restraint appropriate for their weight, in any vehicle. There is only one exception in that they are permitted to travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available.

A rear facing baby seat may only be used if the air-bag has been deactivated.

Children aged 3 and over and under 135cms must use an appropriate child restraint. A child over 12 or 135cms in height may use an adult seat belt.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** The standard legal limits for cars and motorcycles is; 31 mph (50 km/h) unless otherwise indicated by traffic signs.

**Compulsory equipment in Gibraltar:**

n/a

**Other rules/requirements in Gibraltar:**

The use of a car horn is not permitted within the city limits.

**The Spanish–Gibraltar frontier at La Linea is open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic of all EU nationalities and non-visa requiring nationals.**

### **GREAT BRITAIN**

**Side of the road used for driving:** on the left, overtake on the right (SAME AS AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND)

**Drinking and driving:** The maximum permitted level of alcohol in the blood is 0.08 per cent. The police can ask a driver suspected of having committed an offence to undergo a breath test. Penalty up to £5,000 and/or 6 months' imprisonment and 12 months withdrawal of driving licence if first time.

The police may also carry out tests to detect a driver who may be under the influence of narcotics.

**Driving licence:** A visitor may use his national driving licence only if he has reached the minimum age to drive a vehicle in the United Kingdom:

A provisional (learner's) driving licence issued abroad is not valid for use in the United Kingdom.

**Fines:** Drivers without a satisfactory UK address who commit traffic offences will have to pay a financial penalty deposit equal to the amount of the fixed penalty or £300 as a deposit in respect of a potential court fine. The deposit has to be paid on the spot. Those who can provide a satisfactory UK address will be issued with a fixed penalty which has to be paid within 28 working days.

The Police and examiners from the Vehicle Operator and Services Agency (VOSA) can collect on-the-spot payments. Vehicles illegally parked are liable to a fine and may also be wheel-clamped or removed.

**Fuel:** Unleaded 95 octane petrol is sold as 'premium unleaded' and unleaded 97-octane petrol as 'super unleaded'. All UK petrol and diesel contains 10ppm or less Sulphur.

Leaded '4-star' petrol and lead replacement petrol (LRP) are no longer available. Drivers of older cars designed to use leaded petrol are advised to use lead-replacement additives available widely in filling stations and accessory stores.

Prices vary according to the region, fuel brand and type of outlet; supermarket prices may be lower.

**Lights:** Motorists must use sidelights between sunset and sunrise and headlights at night (between half an hour after sunset and half an hour before sunrise) on all roads without street lighting and on roads where the street lights are more than 185m apart or are not lit.

Motorists must use headlights or front and rear fog lights when visibility is seriously reduced, generally to less than 100m use dipped headlights at night in built-up areas unless the road is well lit use headlights at night on lit motorways and roads with a speed limit in excess of 30 mph.

Use of headlights during the day recommended.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under three years **must** use a child restraint appropriate for their weight in any vehicle (including vans and other goods vehicles). The only exception is that a child under three may travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available. Rear-facing baby seats **must not** be used in a seat protected by a frontal air-bag unless the air-bag has been deactivated manually or automatically. In vehicles where seat belts are fitted, children 3 years to 12 years and under 135cms in height (approx 4ft 5ins) **must** use the appropriate child restraint.

These children may travel in the rear and use an adult belt:

- in a taxi, if the right child restraint is not available
- for a short distance in an unexpected necessity
- where two occupied child seats in the rear prevent the fitting of a third

Drivers are responsible for non compliance of this law for children under 14 years with the fine varying between £30 and £500.

**Seat belts:** Seat belts must be worn in front and rear of vehicles, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built up areas: up to 30 mph (48 km/h) unless otherwise indicated, outside built up areas: 60 mph (96 km/h), motorways and dual-carriageways up to 70 mph (112 km/h).

Motor caravans with an unladen weight exceeding 3.5t or motor vehicles adapted to carry more than eight passengers are banned from the outside lane of a motorway with three or more lanes.

**Compulsory equipment in Great Britain: N/A**

**Other rules/requirements in Great Britain:**

While it is not compulsory, it is recommended that you carry a warning triangle, first-aid kit and fire extinguisher.

Motorists must not use a warning triangle on a motorway.

It is an offence to use a hand-held phone or similar device when driving.

It is prohibited to use the horn when the vehicle is stationary, except at times of danger due to another vehicle in movement, or as an anti-theft device. The use of the horn is prohibited in built-up areas from 2330 to 0700 hours.

Visiting motorists driving left-hand drive vehicles should ensure that their headlights are adjusted for driving on the left, otherwise they risk being stopped by the police and subsequently fined up to £1,000.

At some intersections called 'box junctions', criss cross yellow lines are painted on the roadway. Traffic at these junctions must not enter 'the box' (i.e. the area of yellow lines) unless the exit road or lane is clear.

**Practical information:**

**Road signs/signals:**

The "Give Way" sign means that other drivers have priority. The "Elderly People" sign: please take care, as elderly people may be crossing the road. In the United Kingdom, drivers do not usually have to fill in an accident report. Instead, they simply make a declaration to their insurance company. Although there may be no accident report to fill in, make a note of as much of the following information as possible: the identity and the address of the other driver the vehicle registration number, the insurance company and their contact number, the contact details of any witnesses. 1 mile = 1.6 km Motorways are free of charge. If you wish to drive in London between Monday and Friday from 7am to 6.30pm, you have to pay a "congestion charge" of five pounds per day.

**Road tolls in United Kingdom:** Toll charges are made on some roads, tunnels, and bridges as a way of cutting congestion. Britain is very different from other European countries as only 1 of its roads is tolled. And this road also has a non-tolled alternative route.



**Motorway tolls:** [M6 Toll Road](#) - from junction 4 rejoining the M6 at 11a. The M6 splits and rejoins at junction 4 and 11a. You

can use the regular M6 route without being charged. Cars: £4.70  
**Tunnel tolls:** [Dartford Tunnel](#) (Thames) Cars: day £1.50 night: Free (22.00>0600)  
[Mersey Tunnel](#) (Liverpool) Cars: £1.40  
[Tyne Tunnel](#) (Newcastle) Cars: £1.20

**Bridge tolls:** [Queen Elizabeth II Bridge](#) (M25 motorway) Cars: day £1.50 night: Free (22.00>0600)  
[Severn Bridge](#) (M48 motorway, westbound) Cars: £5.50  
[Second Severn Crossing](#) (M4 motorway, westbound) Cars: £5.50  
[Humber Bridge](#) (A15 road) Cars: £2.70  
[Tamar Bridge](#) (A38 road, eastbound) Cars: £1.00  
[Cleddau Bridge](#) (A477 road) Cars: £0.75

**London Congestion Zone:** If you pay the charge on the day of travel you pay £8. Certain vehicles are subject to the Congestion Charge if driven within the charging zone between 07:00 and 18:00, Monday to Friday. You do not have to pay the charge on weekends, English public holidays, designated non-charging days, or between 18:00 and 07:00.

**Non-charging days:** All charging days that fall between Christmas Day and New Year's Day inclusive are designated non-charging days. Vehicles that drive within the zone on or between these dates will not incur the Congestion Charge.

A toll (also called 'congestion charge') is payable when driving or parking in central London on weekdays (Monday to Friday excluding public holidays) between 0700 and 1800 hours. The entrances to the zone are indicated by the letter C in white on a red background. At present the standard charge for most vehicles is £8.00 if purchased on or before the date of travel,

**Full interactive map please enter this URL in your browser:**

<http://trafficalerts.tfl.gov.uk/microsite/tn2007-map.php?cc&eastng=525789&northing=179685>

## **Greece (Southern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more it is a criminal offence. A lower unit of 0.02 per cent applies to drivers who have held a licence for less than two years, and to motorcyclists.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 50cc) 17.

**Fines:** Police can impose fines but not collect them on the spot. The fine must be paid at a Public Treasury office within 10 days. You can be fined for the unnecessary use of a car horn. Vehicles may be towed away if parked illegally, or if violating traffic regulations.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and diesel (petreleo) is available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol available as 'Super 2002' 98 octane). It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can in a vehicle. LPG may not be used in private cars, only in taxis. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations. Check with your card issuer for use in Greece before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility. The use of undipped headlights in towns is strictly prohibited.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory.

**Motor insurance:** Third-party compulsory.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under 3 years must be placed in a suitable child restraint. Approved child restraints are those conforming with standard ECE R44/03 (or later). Children between 3 and 11 years, measuring less than 1.35m must be seated in an appropriate child restraint for their size. From the age of 12, children measuring over 1.35m can wear an adult seat belt.

Placing a rear-facing child restraint in the front passenger seat is allowed only on condition that the passenger airbag is deactivated.

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**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas; 31 mph (50 km/h) for cars, 24 mph (40 km/h) for motorcycles. Outside built-up areas: 55 mph (90 km/h) or 68 mph (110 km/h)

for cars, 43 mph (70 km/h) for motorcycles. Motorways: 80mph (130 km/h) for cars and 55mph 90 km/h for motorcycles.

### **Compulsory equipment in Greece:**

- Fire extinguisher
- First-aid kit
- Warning triangle

### **Other rules/regulations in Greece:**

The police are empowered to confiscate the number plates of illegally parked vehicles throughout Greece. Generally this only applies to Greek-registered vehicles, but the drivers of foreign registered vehicles should beware of parking illegally.

### **Hungary (Central Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood; amounts of less than 0.08 per cent incur a fine, more than 0.08 per cent legal proceedings.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 17. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Hungary. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

**Fines:** On-the-spot, the police must hand over the payment order to transfer the amount of the fine within 30 days.

The fine is only payable in HUF, credit cards are not accepted. Cash should not be given to a policeman at the roadside. Wheel clamps are in use.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel (Dizel or Gazolaj) and LPG available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted maximum 40 litres. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Hungary before travel. Cash is the most usual form of payment.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times outside built-up areas. At night the use of full beam, in built up areas, is prohibited.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** A child under 3 years of age may only travel in a vehicle if using a suitable child restraint system appropriate for their weight, they are permitted to travel in the front of the vehicle using this restraint if it is rear facing and there is no airbag or it has been deactivated. Children under 1.5m and over 3 years of age must use a suitable child restraint system and be seated in the rear of the vehicle.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seatbelts, where fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) or 68 mph (110 km/h) on semi-motorways and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways. Lower speed limits may apply on the approach to level crossings. Vehicles with snow chains must not exceed 31mph (50km/h). In city centres, areas with an 18 mph (30 km/h) speed limit are increasingly common. Lower speed limits may apply on the approach to level crossings.

### **Compulsory equipment in Hungary:**

- First-aid kit
- Warning triangle
- Reflective Jacket - All pedestrians walking on a road, or road shoulder outside a built up area must wear a reflective jacket at night and in case of bad visibility. Any person exiting a vehicle outside a built up area in a breakdown situation becomes a pedestrian and therefore must wear a reflective jacket.
- Snow chains - The use of or their presence in a car can be made compulsory on some roads when weather conditions require.

### **Other rules/regulations in Hungary:**

Spare bulb kit recommended as its carriage is compulsory for Hungarian registered vehicles.

Recommended that the driver of a conspicuously damaged vehicle entering Hungary obtain a police report confirming the damage at the time of entry, otherwise lengthy delays may be encountered at the frontier when leaving Hungary. This report should be obtained from the police of the country where the car was damaged.

### **Motorway tax payable for use of:**

M1 (Budapest – Hegyeshalom),

M3 (Budapest –Gorbehaza – Nyiregyhaza)),

M5 (Budapest – Kiskunfelegyhaza – Szeged - Roszke/border with Serbia),

M6 (M0- Erd - Dunaujvaros)

M7 (Budapest - Lake Balaton – Letenye, border with Croatia)

M30 (Emod - Miskolc)

M35 (Gorbehaza-Debrecen)

The electronic vignette and any toll charges must be paid in forints. Credit cards accepted: Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard, DKV and UTA. The vignette can be purchased in person, online, or by telephone (land line or mobile). When a motorist has purchased an e-vignette, a confirmation message will be sent or a coupon issued.

This document must be kept for one year after the expiry of validity. The motorway authorities check all vehicles electronically, and verify the registration number, the category of toll paid and the validity of the e-vignette. Further information: [www.motorway.hu](http://www.motorway.hu) – available for 4 days (vehicles up to 3.5t only), 1 week, one month or 13 months.

Fines imposed for non-display. The Hungarian motoring Association recommend foreign motorists wishing to purchase a vignette at the border have cash in Hungarian Forints. Vignettes should only be purchased from outlets where the prices are clearly displayed at the set rate.

Motorists should be wary of contrived incidents, particularly on the Vienna – Budapest motorway, designed to stop motorists and expose them to robbery.

A new directive by the Hungarian authorities means that traffic will be restricted from entering Budapest when the dust in the air exceeds a fixed level on two consecutive days. The restriction depends upon the number which a registration plate ends, licence plates ending in odd numbers will be permitted to enter Budapest on odd numbered days, even number on even days.

The restriction also applies to UK registered vehicles, however as UK registration plates tend to end in a letter rather than a number we are waiting for confirmation as to how the restriction will apply. The restriction will be applicable from 0600 to 2200 with a fine imposed for non compliance.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

The use of the horn is prohibited in built-up areas, except in the case of danger.

### **Republic of Ireland (Western Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is more than 0.08 per cent, severe penalties include fine and/or imprisonment plus disqualification. Random breath testing is now in force throughout Ireland.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 150cc) 17.

**Fines:** On-the-spot fines for parking and speeding offences. Police are not authorised to actually collect fines, they will issue a notice which must be paid within 21 days. Wheel clamps are in use. In some areas parked cars can be towed away if causing an obstruction and a significant fee is charged for its release.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 octane) and diesel available. No leaded petrol. Lead replacement petrol and LPG are extremely limited in Ireland. Petrol in a can is permitted but forbidden on board ferries. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Ireland before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

**Motorcycles:** Dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/children in cars:** Children under 3 years of age may not travel in a car (other than a taxi) unless they are placed in an appropriate child restraint, they can travel on the front seat of the car if they are in a rear facing restraint system and the airbag is disabled.

Children over 3 who are under 1.5m and weigh less than 36kg must use an appropriate child restraint when travelling in cars fitted with seat belts. If the car is not equipped with seat belts they must travel on the rear seats.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front/rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 50km/h, outside built-up areas 60-100km/h according to road signs and 120 km/h on motorways.

### **Compulsory equipment in Republic of Ireland:**

- Warning triangle - for vehicles with an unladen weight exceeding 1,524kg (1.5 tons).

Other rules/requirements in Republic of Ireland:

Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right.

Horns must not be used between 2330 and 0700 hours.

Distances are given in kilometres.

Some level crossings have manual gates which motorists must open and close.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera Poi (Points of Interest)' function deactivated.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited; they can be confiscated by the Garda.

Barrier free tolling now operates on the M50 Dublin, your number plate will be recorded when you pass through the toll and the fee must be paid by 8pm the following day at the latest, this can be paid at any of the 'payzone' outlets. Further information can be found on the following website [www.eflow.ie/](http://www.eflow.ie/)

## **ITALY & SAN MARINO (Central Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority unless otherwise indicated:** right. At many crossroads, priority is indicated on road signs.

Please note, priority is given to the right at roundabouts.

**Speed limits for cars and mobile homes exceeding 3.5 tonnes (unless indicated otherwise):**

In built up areas: 50 kph (31mph) Outside built up areas: 90kph (56mph) Dual carriageway: 110kph (68mph)

Motorway: 130kph / 80mph (150kph / 93mph on some roads – the limit will be stated on road signs)

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands-free kits are permitted

**Safety belts:** obligatory, in the front and the back. Children under 12, unless at least 150cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall, must use specially adapted seating.

**Drivers are obliged to have:** 1 reflective jacket and 1 warning triangle. Anybody trapped on the road through breakdown or accident must wear a reflective jacket. A sticker indicating the country of origin must be stuck onto the back of the vehicle. The police may turn a blind eye to this if your number plates indicate the country of registration.

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** yes on fast roads and motorways

**Practical information:**

**Road signs/signals:**

Sometimes, the red light doesn't go out and the green arrow light appears simultaneously! If this happens, you have right of way. Two continuous stripes running alongside each other may not be crossed.

## **RESTRICTED TRAFFIC ZONES IN ITALY**

Traffic is restricted in many historical centres/major towns in Italy known as '**Zone a Traffico Limitato**' or ZTL's. Circulation in these areas is either fully prohibited, only permitted for residents or there are time restrictions that apply. Entering such areas whether using your own car or a hire car will almost certainly result in you receiving a fine by post, sometimes many months later.



The **Italian** toll system is complicated and for tourists it takes getting used to. Not only that, but different motorway operating companies are in charge of individual route sections.



The toll amount mostly depends on the route length and is usually determined by means of a ticket issued at the motorway access, or a flat rate is charged on some motorway sections. Payment can be in cash, at some places with credit card or everywhere with the VIAcard and Telepass. Because - except for Sicily - only the VIAcard and Telepass are accepted all over Italy and are recommended to avoid queuing at cash payment booths.

Automated toll payment with a Telepass used to be only possible for users with an Italian bank account. But now tolltickets and its service partners provide the Telepass with VIAcard to all European users outside Italy - without the need for an Italian bank account! Now you only need to register and in a few days you receive your Telepass and VIAcard from tolltickets

***(At the moment not available to AU residents. We are in contact with [www.tolltickets.com](http://www.tolltickets.com) and are working on a simple solution)***

**If you have an EU address you could pre purchase a short term pass online.**

### **Latvia (Eastern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** The maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream for drivers with more than 2 years experience is 0.05 per cent. For drivers with less than 2 years experience the maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent. Penalties are severe if the levels are exceeded.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (over 125cc) is 18.

**Fines:** The police can issue but not collect fines on the spot, the fines have to be paid or appeal lodged within 30 days. Police control speeds closely and gives fines for even the smallest of speeding offences.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol, petrol with lead substitute available. Petrol in a can permitted (duty payable). Visa and MasterCard accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Latvia before travel. Cash payments only accepted in local currency.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children less than 1.5m in height must use a restraint system appropriate to size and weight or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h), dual carriageways 68 mph (110 km/h). There are no motorways in Latvia. In residential areas the speed limit is 20km/h.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Latvia:**

- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning triangle
- Winter tyres – compulsory for vehicles up to 3.5tonnes from 1 December until the 1 March.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Latvia:**

Spiked tyres are prohibited 1 May until the 1 October.

It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

Note: Latvia has very little signposting and road markings.

The use of equipment which interferes with police equipment is prohibited.

### **Lithuania (Eastern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.04 per cent or more severe penalties include a fine and/or withdrawal of driving licence for up to one and a half years.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18.

UK licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.

**Fines:** On-the-spot (some fines may be paid at a local bank dependent upon the amount / traffic violation). Wheel clamps are in use.

**Fuel:** Leaded petrol available at Statoil petrol stations. Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG are available. Petrol in a can permitted (duty payable). Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Lithuania before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory, fine for non compliance.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory, fine for non-compliance. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 cannot travel as passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 12 or 150cm cannot travel as a front seat passenger unless using a child restraint appropriate to age and size. Children under 3 years must be seated in a child seat appropriate to their age and size on the rear seats.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), other roads 43 mph (70 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h).

On dual carriageways 1st October to 30th March 62 mph (100 km/h) and from 1st April to 30th September a limit of 68 mph (110 km/h) applies. On motorways 1st October to 30th March 68 mph (110 km/h) and from 1st April to 30th September a limit of 80 mph (130 km/h) applies between (i) Vilnius - Panevezys and (ii) Kaunas - Klaipeda. The police control speeds closely and give fines for even the smallest of speeding offences.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Lithuania:**

- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning triangle
- Reflective jacket – must be worn by driver exiting the vehicle at night in a breakdown situation. Therefore the jacket/waistcoat must be kept within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.
- Winter tyres - compulsory between the 1st November and the 1st April. Spiked tyres may also be used during this period.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Lithuania:**

It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle for example: a fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

It is compulsory to call the police to the scene of an accident.

### **Luxembourg (Western Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more severe penalties include fines and / or prison. Young driver's blood alcohol level is 0.019 per cent.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18.

**Fines: On-the-spot.** Unauthorised and dangerous parking can result in the car being impounded or removed.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) and diesel available. LPG is available in a few petrol stations (approximately 12). It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can. Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Luxembourg before travel.

**Lights:** Sidelights required when parking where there isn't any public lighting. When visibility is reduced to fewer than 100 metres due to fog, snow, heavy rain etc, dipped headlights must be used. It is compulsory to flash headlights at night when overtaking outside built-up areas. In tunnels indicated by a sign, drivers must use their passing lights.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 not permitted as a passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 3 years of age must be seated in an approved restraint system. Children aged 3 to 18 years and / or under 1.5m must be seated in an appropriate restraint system. If their weight is over 36kg a seatbelt can be used but only on the rear seat of the vehicle. Rearward facing child restraint systems are prohibited on seats with frontal airbags unless the airbag is disabled.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) and motorways 80 mph (130 km/h) (in case of rain or snow 68 mph / 110 km/h), 43 mph (70 km/h) speed limit for vehicles with spiked tyres.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Luxembourg:**

- Reflective jacket - It is compulsory for the driver and passengers to wear a reflective waistcoat when exiting a vehicle in a breakdown situation on a motorway or outside built up areas, at night and in bad visibility.
- Warning triangle - compulsory for all vehicles with 4 or more wheels.
- Tyres – All tyres on a car must be of the same type: either winter tyres marked M&S on the sidewall or summer tyres.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Luxembourg:**

The use of spiked tyres is permitted from the 1st December until the 31st March.

Use of snow chains permitted, in case of snow or ice.

Any vehicle immobilised on the motorway must use warning signals, a warning triangle and a flashing light at the rear. In built up areas the use of the horn is prohibited except in case of immediate danger.

'Zone de rencontre' – This new road sign which can be seen in residential and commercial areas indicates a maximum speed of 20 km/h. Within this zone pedestrians have priority and may cross the road whenever they choose to, without unnecessarily impeding the traffic of vehicles.

### **Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and / or suspension of driving licence. The limit is 0% for newly qualified drivers.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

**Fines:** On-the-spot, an official receipt should be obtained. They must be paid at a Post Office or bank, if paid within 8 days of the fine being issued there is a 50% discount. Police can impound a vehicle that is wrongly parked and can detain a vehicle with worn tyres.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel, Euro diesel and LPG are available. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Macedonia before travel. Usually payment can only be made in local currency.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory, on the spot fine for none compliance.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** A child under 12 is not permitted to travel in the front seats of a vehicle.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) but 62 mph (100 km/h) on dual carriageways and 75mph (120km/h) motorways. Special speed limits apply to newly qualified drivers, for private vehicles without trailers: Outside built up areas 37mph (60 km/h), but 49 mph (80 km/h) on dual carriageways and 62 mph (100 km/h) on motorways.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Macedonia:**

- First aid kit

- A tow rope
- Warning triangle – two if towing a trailer. Not required for two wheeled vehicles.
- Fire extinguisher – All cars must carry a 2kg fire extinguisher filled with ABC powder.
- Reflective jacket – The jacket must be kept within the vehicle (i.e. not in the boot) and worn by the driver before exiting the vehicle in the dark outside of towns and on motorways. Compliant with EN 471.
- Winter equipment – Winter tyres must be fitted on all wheels and have a minimum tread depth of 4mm or if you carry snow chains the vehicle can be fitted with summer tyres and have a minimum tread depth of 4mm. 4 wheel drive vehicles must have winter tyres with a minimum tread depth of 6mm or if you carry snow chains the vehicle can be fitted with summer tyres and have a minimum tread depth of 6mm.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Macedonia:**

It is recommended to have a spare set of bulbs in the vehicle. This does not apply if the vehicle is fitted with xenon, neon or LED lights. It is also recommended to carry a fire extinguisher.

A person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front seat passenger. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Macedonia and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving. A certificate must also be obtained if the damage occurs whilst in Macedonia.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera Poi (Points of Interest)' function deactivated.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

#### **Malta (Mediterranean)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine or imprisonment.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18.

**Fines:** No on-the-spot fines but if any motoring or parking offence is committed, for which a fine is payable, this may be settled prior to departure.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol 95 octane, lead replacement petrol 98 octane and diesel is available but not LPG. Petrol in a can permitted however it is forbidden aboard ferries and Eurotunnel. Credit cards are generally not accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Malta before travel.

**Lights:** Spot lights are prohibited. Lights should be switched on whilst travelling through tunnels.

**Motorcycles:** Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 3 cannot travel as front or rear seat passengers unless using a suitable restraint system.

Children between 3 and 10 or under 1.5m in height travelling in front or rear seats must use a restraint system as appropriate or adult seat belt if a restraint system is unavailable.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front and rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h).

#### **Compulsory equipment in Malta:**

- Warning triangle

Other rules/requirements in Malta:

The rule of the road is drive on the left, overtake on the right.

The use of the horn is prohibited in inhabited areas between 2300hrs & 0600hrs.

Parking in Valetta is extremely limited and there is a charge to enter the city.

There is a park and ride system located on the outskirts of the city offering a free shuttle to the centre

Cars involved in a bumper-to-bumper accident need to contact the local warden service.

#### **Montenegro (South East Europe)**



**.Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more or if a medical examination shows that normal bodily functions are impaired, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and / or suspension of driving licence.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18. We recommend that you obtain an International Driving Permit to accompany your UK driving licence.

**Fines:** Officials can issue an on-the-spot fine notice, but cannot collect payment. Fines vary according to the gravity of the offence. Penalties are higher if the motorist endangers other people or causes an accident.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel (Dizel) available. Small amount of petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards generally accepted; check with your card issuer for usage in Montenegro before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights compulsory at all times.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** A person visibly under the influence of alcohol or children under 12 cannot travel in a vehicle as a front seat passenger.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers; in built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) and 62 mph (100 km/h) on fast roads.

**Compulsory equipment in Montenegro:**

- Spare bulb set
- First aid kit
- Warning triangle - excluding motorcycles. Two triangles required if towing a trailer

**Other rules/requirements in Montenegro:**

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Montenegro and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving otherwise you may experience serious difficulties.

Every car entering the territory of Montenegro will be subject to an ecological tax, approximately 10 EUR. The eco tax is to be paid at the border and drivers will get a sticker for their vehicle as proof of payment, valid for 1 year.

It is compulsory for accidents resulting in serious injury or material damage to be reported to the police.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

In winter, snow chains may be necessary on some roads.

Vehicles entering a roundabout have right of way.

Horns must not be used in built up areas or at night except in cases of imminent danger.

School buses must not be overtaken or passed when they stop for children to board or alight.

## **Norway (Northern Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream exceeds 0.020 per cent severe penalties include heavy fines and / or prison also surrender of driving licence.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle up to 11kw minimum age 16, 11-25kw 18 and over 25kw 20.

**Fines:** On-the-spot for infringement of traffic regulations. Vehicles illegally parked may be towed away.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) and diesel is available, there is limited LPG availability.

Petrol in a can permitted but it is forbidden aboard ferries.

Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Norway before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 4 cannot travel as a front or rear seat passenger unless seated in a special restraint. Children over 4 must use a special restraint system or a seat belt.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) and up to 55 mph or 62 mph (90 km/h, 100km) on motorways.

**Compulsory equipment in Norway:**

- Warning triangle - compulsory for all vehicles with more than two wheels
- Reflective jackets – compulsory for residents, strongly recommended for visitors

### **Other rules/requirements in Norway:**

We recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and set of replacement bulbs. In addition to some road, bridge and tunnel tolls, and city tolls are payable by motorists entering Bergen, Oslo, Stavanger and Trondheim. The toll charge needs to be paid prior to entering 'the zone'. The tolls can be paid at the nearest Esso station.

Spiked tyres may be used between the 1st November and the first Sunday after Easter. Cars with spiked tyres will be charged a fee by the municipalities of Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim; the stickers are available to purchase daily, monthly or yearly.

In the three Northern counties Nordland, Troms and Finnmark spiked tyres are permitted from the 15th October to the 1st May.

Snow chains may be used on all types of tyres, in the event that there is snow or ice covering the roads winter tyres or any tyres and snow chains must be used.

A vehicle towing a caravan must be equipped with special rear view mirrors.

Trams always have right of way.

The use of radar detectors is forbidden.

We strongly recommended that a reflective jacket be carried and worn if the driver and / or passenger(s) need to exit a vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways and main or busy roads. We recommend the jacket be carried in the passenger compartment of the vehicle (not the boot).

The carriage/use of reflective jacket is compulsory for vehicles registered in Norway.

When hiring a car in Norway, it is the hirer's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle comes complete with the compulsory equipment.

### **Netherlands (Western Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority unless otherwise indicated:** priority is given to the right at roundabouts (unless otherwise indicated)

**Speed limits for cars and mobile homes exceeding 3.5 tonnes (unless indicated otherwise):**

In built up areas: 50 kph (31mph)

Outside built up areas: 80kph (50mph)

Dual carriageways: 100kph (62mph)

Motorway: 120kph (75mph)

**Blood alcohol limit (beyond which driving is prohibited):** 0.5 grams per litre

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands -free kits are permitted

**Safety belts:** obligatory, in the front and the back

**Helmets for cyclists and motorcyclists:** yes, at speeds above 25kph

**Drivers are obliged to have:** there is no obligatory equipment

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** no, but this is recommended

**Practical information:**

**Road signs/signals:**

At the access point of a crossroads, a line made up of white triangles painted on the road surface is intended to inform the driver that he should give way to any other vehicle (including bicycles) already on the crossroads. Start of residential areas. Reduced visibility

**Road tolls in Europe:** There are no toll roads in Holland. However, before entering tunnel the Dordse Kil in the Biesbosch region, and the Westerschelde Tunnel you have to pay a small fee.

### **Poland (Central Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** The maximum level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent. Between 0.021% and 0.05% per cent a heavy fine imposed and suspension of licence. Over 0.05% the fine is determined by a tribunal along with the prison sentence and suspension of licence.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (over 125cc) 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Poland.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. The Police are authorised to request foreign motorists pay their fines in cash. Wheel clamps are in use. Illegally parked cars causing an obstruction may be towed away and impounded.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol (95 octane petrol with lead replacement additive available). 10 litres of petrol in a can is permitted but forbidden aboard ferries and Euro tunnel. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Poland before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights or daytime running lights are compulsory for all vehicles at all times. Fine imposed for non-compliance.

**Motorcycles:** Dipped headlights or daytime running lights are compulsory for all vehicles at all times. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children under 12 and 1.5 metres in height cannot travel as front or a rear seat passenger unless using a suitable restraint system adapted to their size. If a car is equipped with front seat airbags it is prohibited to place a child in a rear facing seat.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 37 mph (60 km/h) from 2300hrs to 0500hrs and 31 mph (50 km/h) from 0500hrs to 2300hrs, outside built-up areas 55 Mph (90 km/h), on express roads (2 x 1 lanes) 62 mph (100 km/h) or (2 x 2 lanes) 68 mph (110 km/h) and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways. The minimum speed on motorways is 24 mph (40 km/h). Some residential zones are 13mph (20km/h).

#### **Compulsory equipment in Poland:**

- Warning triangle - compulsory for all vehicles with more than two wheels

Other rules/requirements in Poland:

It is recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first aid kit and a set of replacement bulbs.

It is also recommended that a fire extinguisher be carried as its carriage is compulsory for Polish registered vehicles.

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

Snow chains may be used only on roads covered with snow.

It is prohibited to carry or / and use a radar detector.

The use of the horn is prohibited in built up areas except to avoid an accident.

### **PORTUGAL (South West Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority unless otherwise indicated:** to the right, unless indicated otherwise Cyclists and horse-drawn vehicles must give way to motor vehicles unless these motor vehicles are just exiting a building, a parking space or are at a Roundabout.

**Speed limits for light vehicles, unless otherwise signposted:** In built up areas: 50 kph (31mph)

Outside built up areas: 90kph (56mph)

Dual carriageway: 100kph (62mph)

Motorway: 120kph (75mph)

**Blood alcohol limit (beyond which driving is prohibited):** 0.5 grams per litre

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands-free kits are permitted

**Safety belts:** obligatory, in the front and the back

**Drivers are obliged to have:** 1 reflective jacket and 1 warning triangle.

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** Not obligatory except on the IP5 between Aveiro and Vilar Formoso

**Road tolls in Europe:** There are toll roads throughout Europe and the way they "work" varies. In most countries you pay as you exit the toll road - with the piece of paper obtained when entering the toll road telling the toll booth where you entered.

## **Romania (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Driving Licence can be suspended for a maximum of 90 days or prison sentence for offenders.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (for up to 90 days) 18.

Driving licences issued in the UK that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

**Fines:** Police can impose fines and collect them on the spot, a receipt must be obtained. A vehicle which is illegally parked may be clamped and removed.

If a fine is paid within 48 hours, the fine amount is halved.

**Fuel:** Lead replacement petrol (95 & 98 octane), unleaded petrol, Diesel and LPG available.

Petrol in a can permitted (must be empty when leaving Romania).

Tax is payable on petrol and diesel in the vehicle tank when leaving Romania.

Credit cards are accepted at many stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Romania before travel. Payment is usually made in local currency.

**Lights:** Forbidden to drive at night if vehicle lighting faulty. Additional headlamps prohibited.

Dipped headlights must be used outside built up areas during the day.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for driver and passenger of machines 50cc and over.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Child under 12 cannot travel as a front seat passenger.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h), 62mph (100 km/h) on dual carriageways and 80mph (130km/h) on Motorways. No minimum speed on motorways.

A 10 km/h reduction of the standard speed limit applies if towing.

A driver who has held a license for less than 1 year is restricted to a speed limit of 20 km/h below the indicated speed.

The speed limit for mopeds is 45 km/h inside and outside built up areas.

### **Compulsory equipment in Romania:**

- First aid kit
- Fire extinguisher
- Red warning triangle - not required for two wheeled vehicles.

### **Other rules/requirements in Romania:**

It is against the law to drive a dirty car.

If a temporarily imported vehicle is damaged before arrival in Romania, the importer must ask a Romanian Customs or Police Officer to write a report on the damage so that he can export the vehicle without problems. If any damage occurs inside the country a report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

"Claxonarea interzisa" – use of horn prohibited. The use of the horn is prohibited between 2200hrs & 0600hrs in built up areas. .

Spiked tyres prohibited.

The use of snow chains is recommended for winter journeys to the mountains and may be compulsory in case of heavy snow.

"Rovinieta" - a road tax is levied on all motor vehicles both residents and visitors. Road tax 'stickers' known as "rovinieta" are available from border crossing points,

Petrol stations and post offices in Romania. The cost depends on the vehicle emissions category and period of use in Romania.

Foreign drivers failing to purchase a "rovinieta" during their stay may incur a fine between €3000 and €4000 when leaving the country. Proof of insurance and the cars registration document is required when purchasing the "rovinieta".

## **Serbia (South East Europe)**

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.03 per cent or more or if a medical examination shows that normal bodily functions are impaired, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and / or suspension of driving licence. Nil alcohol is permitted in the drivers' blood for motorcyclists, novice and professional drivers. Police

will be able to carry out random breath tests. All drivers will be tested for alcohol and narcotics if involved in an accident. Drivers who refuse a test will be automatically imprisoned.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18. We recommend that you obtain an International Driving Permit to accompany your UK driving licence.

**Fines:** Fines are no longer payable on-the-spot; a ticket will be issued by the policeman. The tickets are required to be settled at post offices or banks. Fines vary according to the gravity of the offence. Penalties are higher if the motorist endangers other people or causes an accident.

**Fuel:** Leaded (95 octane), Diesel (Dizel), LPG and unleaded petrol (95 octane) available. Petrol in a can permitted (duty payable). Credit cards generally accepted; check with your card issuer for usage in Serbia before travel.

**Lights:** Compulsory to use daytime running lights or dipped headlights during the day. A fine will be imposed for non-compliance.

**Motorcycles:** The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger on a motorcycle, moped, motorised tricycle and quadricycle. It is compulsory to use headlights during the day. Passengers on motorcycles are not permitted to be under the influence of alcohol. Children aged 12 and under are not permitted as a passenger. Motor Insurance: Green Card recognised third-party insurance compulsory. Green cards must bear the new sign for Serbia (SRB) NOT the old sign (SCG). Vehicles which do not have a valid green card are required to take out short term insurance at the border.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** A person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front seat passenger. Children up to the age of 3 years old can travel in the front of a car on the condition that they are placed in a rear facing child restraint adapted to their size and that the airbag is deactivated.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers; in built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) but 62 mph (100 km/h) on dual carriageways and 74 mph (120 km/h) on motorways. Maximum speed limits in school areas 18 mph (30 km/h).

#### **Compulsory equipment in Serbia:**

- First aid kit – except mopeds
- Spare bulb set
- Warning triangle – two if towing a trailer. Not required for two wheeled vehicles.
- Winter equipment – In winter, if weather conditions require, motor vehicles must be equipped with four radial tyres and carry snow chains or be fitted with winter / snow tyres marked M&S on the side walls with a minimum tread depth of 4mm.
- Daytime running lights or Dipped headlights\*
- Reflective jacket – it is compulsory to carry reflective jackets. Any persons exiting a vehicle to walk on the road must wear the reflective jacket. The jacket must be worn when exiting the vehicle and should therefore be kept within the passenger compartment of the vehicle.
- Spare wheel
- Towing rope
- European Accident Claim Form

#### **Other rules/requirements in Serbia:**

The use or carriage of radar detectors is prohibited.

Tolls are payable on most sections of motorway see [www.amss.org.yu](http://www.amss.org.yu).

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Serbia and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving otherwise you may experience serious difficulties on leaving.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

If weather conditions require, snow tyres marked M&S on the sidewall must be fitted on the driving wheels. We recommend that snow chains are carried as their use may become compulsory if the International 'snow chains' sign is displayed.

Vehicles entering a roundabout have right of way.

Horns must not be used in built up areas or at night except in cases of imminent danger.

School buses must not be overtaken when they stop for children to board or alight.

**Drinking and driving:** Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in the drivers' blood. Penalties include fine, withdrawal of licence and imprisonment.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (exceeding 50cc) 17.

**Fines:** On-the-spot (up to €600), an official receipt should be obtained. Wheel clamps are in use and vehicles may be towed away.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel (Nafta) and LPG is available, no leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted. LPG can only be used for road vehicles on the condition that a safety certificate covers the equipment for its combustion.

Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Slovakia before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of a crash helmet is compulsory when riding a machine over 50cc. Forbidden for motorcyclists to smoke while riding their machine.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** No person under 1.5 metres in height or child under 12 may travel in a vehicle as a front seat passenger. The use of child seats is compulsory for all children under 12 years of age or 150cm tall.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for all seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers; Motorways and expressways outside built up areas 80 mph (130 km/h), motorways and expressways in built up areas 55mph (90 km/h).

Other roads outside built up areas 55mph (90 km/h), other roads in built up areas 31 mph (50 km/h).

Drivers must not exceed a speed of 30 km/h, 30 metres before a level crossing and whilst crossing over it.

Minimum speed on motorways: 49 mph (80 km/h), 40 mph (65 km/h) on urban motorways.

#### **Compulsory equipment:**

- First aid kit
- Warning triangle – not required for two wheeled vehicles.
- Winter tyres (M+S type) - compulsory when compacted snow or ice is on the road, at a minimum tread depth of 3 millimetres.
- Reflective jacket - compulsory for 2 and 4 wheeled vehicles on all roads outside built up areas, day and night. The person getting out of the vehicle as a result of a breakdown, puncture or accident must wear a reflective jacket. A fine of up to €60 will be imposed for non compliance. Reflective jackets must comply with EU standard EN 471.

#### **Other rules/requirements:**

For vehicles under 3.5tonnes a motorway tax is payable for use of certain highways and motorways by means of a windscreen sticker, which must be displayed on the right hand side of the windscreen of all vehicles, except motorcycles, as evidence of payment. Stickers may be purchased at border crossings and from selected filling stations and post offices for periods of one year, one month or one week. Fines are imposed for non-display. It is compulsory to remove the old stickers which are no longer valid.

Radar detection equipment is strictly prohibited in Slovakia.

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Slovakia.

If any damage occurs inside the country with an estimated cost over €4000 or where injury or fatality occurs, a police report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

Drivers are advised by the Slovak Police to be wary of people approaching their vehicle at border crossings and petrol stations near the border who, may cause damage to tyres and then offer their assistance further on your route when the tyre becomes deflated.

Spiked tyres are prohibited and snow chains may be used only where there is enough snow to protect the road surface.

All foreign visitors are required to show proof of medical insurance cover on entry.

Horns may only be used to warn of danger or to signify intention to overtake.

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine or suspension of driving licence. Nil percentage of alcohol is permitted in the drivers' blood if the licence has been held for less than three years, the person is under 21 or you employed as a professional driver.

The driver can still be fined for levels under 0.05% if the driver is unable to drive safely. These rules also apply to narcotics.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

An IDP is compulsory for holders of driving licences not incorporating a photograph.

**Fines:** On-the-spot, they must be paid in local currency. Refusal to pay could result in your passport being held.

Illegally parked vehicles will be towed away or clamped.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG available.

No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available).

Petrol in a can permitted.

Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Slovenia before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger. Children under 12 not permitted as a passenger.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Child under 12 and smaller than 1.5 metres must use suitable restraint system for their age and size and they are only permitted to travel on the rear seats. Children over 12 may wear normal seat belts.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) but 62 mph (100 km/h) on "fast roads" (dual carriageways) and 80 mph (130 km/h) on motorways.

There are areas with a restricted speed limit of 18 mph (30km/h). The minimum speed on motorways is 37 mph (60km/h). Vehicles equipped with snow chains must not exceed 31 mph (50 km/h).

In bad weather and when visibility is reduced to less than 50 metres due to bad weather the maximum speed limit is 31 mph (50 km/h).

#### **Compulsory equipment in Slovenia:**

- Reflective jacket – (not motorcycles) the reflective waistcoat/s should be kept in the vehicle and not in the boot as any person exiting the vehicle must wear a reflective safety jacket as soon as they leave their vehicle in an accident/breakdown situation, fine for non-compliance.

- Warning triangle – two if towing a trailer. Not required for two wheeled vehicles.

- Snow chains – must be carried between 15 November and 15 March (and at other times under winter weather conditions) by private cars and vehicles up to 3.5tonnes unless vehicle fitted with four winter tyres. Minimum tyre tread depth is 3mm at times when snow chains/winter tyres required.

#### **Other rules/requirements in Slovenia:**

Warning triangle and/or hazard warning lights must be used in an accident/ breakdown situation.

At night if hazard lights fail, in addition to a warning triangle a yellow flashing light or position lights must mark the vehicle.

Fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs recommended.

Foreign drivers involved in an accident must call the police and obtain a written report. On leaving the country, damaged vehicles must be accompanied by this report, as Customs will ask to see it, to allow exit.

It is prohibited to overtake a bus transporting children when passengers are getting on / off.

Use of the horn is prohibited in built up areas or at night, except in cases of danger/injury/illness.

A vignette system has been introduced which replaces tolls. The vignette will have to be displayed when travelling on motorways and expressways and will be available to purchase from filling stations in Slovenia and in neighbouring countries. The vignettes are available with validities of 1 year (vehicle up to 3.5t €95), per month (vehicle up to 3.5t €30) and for 7 days (vehicle up to 3.5t €15), with the yearly one being valid from 1st December to the 31st January the following year, fine for non-display 300 Euros minimum. Further information can be found on [www.dars.si](http://www.dars.si)

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

Hazard warning lights must be used when reversing.

### **SPAIN (South West Europe)**

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority:** to the right, unless indicated otherwise

**Speed limits for light vehicles, unless otherwise indicated:** In built up areas: 50 kph (31mph)

Outside built up areas: 90kph (56mph) Dual carriageways: 100 kph (62 mph) Motorway: 120kph (75mph)

**Blood alcohol limit (beyond which driving is prohibited):** 0.5 grams per litre (0.3 g/l for drivers who have held a driving licence for less than two years, for HGV and coach drivers, for the transport of dangerous substances and for the public authorities).

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited (earphones and hands-free kits are also prohibited)

**Safety belts:** obligatory, in the front and the back

**Helmets for cyclists and motorcyclists:** obligatory

**Drivers are obliged to have:** 1 reflective jacket, 2 warning triangles and spare bulbs.

According to a decision taken by the General Traffic Directorate in Spain, a single warning triangle is obligatory for foreign vehicles. This decision is the result of an agreement with the French authorities. Any person on the road on foot due to a breakdown or an accident must wear a reflective jacket.

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** no

**Practical information:**

**Road signs/signals:**

Urban areas:

**Road tolls in Europe:** There are toll roads throughout Europe and the way they "work" varies. In most countries you pay as you exit the toll road - with the piece of paper obtained when entering the toll road telling the toll booth where you entered.

## Sweden (Northern Europe)

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent or more severe penalties include fines, withdrawal of licence and / or prison.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18. NOTE UK driving licences, which do not incorporate a photograph, will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.

**Fines:** Police can impose but not collect fines on the spot for minor traffic offences. Fines must be paid at a bank within 2-3 weeks. Illegally parked vehicles may be towed away and the release charge is up to 1,400 SEK.

**Fuel:** Unleaded - Blyfri (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel is available, very limited LPG availability. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Sweden before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Fines will be imposed for inadequate lighting.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory.

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children aged under 15 or under 135cms must use an appropriate child restraint. There is only one exception in that they are permitted to travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available. A child aged 15 and over or 135 cms in height may use an adult seat belt.

A rear facing baby seat may only be used if the air-bag has been deactivated. Children weighing up to 13kg must use a baby restraint facing backwards and can be placed on the front or back seats. It is only permitted to have the seat forward facing once the child weighs more than 18kg.

**Seat belts:** Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

**Speed limits:** Speed limits are no longer based on the type of road, but on the quality and safety of the actual road itself. Speed limits may subsequently vary along the same road. It is therefore recommended to pay particular attention to road signs. The lowest speed limits, which may be varied by signs, for private Vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas: 18 mph (30 km/h), outside built-up areas 43 mph (70 km/h), dual carriageways 62mph (100km/h) and motorways 68 mph (110 km/h). Vehicles with trailers must never exceed 49mph (80 km/h). If in doubt, or if there is no speed limits indicated, drivers are advised to keep to 70km/h until a speed limit sign turns up.

**Compulsory equipment:**

- From the 1st Dec to 31st March, it is compulsory to use winter tyres (marked M&S) with a minimum tread depth of 3mm.

**Other rules/requirements:**

Warning triangle, first aid kit and fire extinguisher recommended.

Beware game – moose, deer, etc. – As this constitutes a very real danger on many roads (a yellow warning triangle with a red border depicts animal most common on a particular stretch of road).



Spiked tyres (which must be fitted on all wheels) may be used 1st October to the 15th April; however, local authorities have the power to ban spiked/studded tyres on their roads. Snow chains may also be used if the weather or road conditions require.

Congestion charges in Stockholm do not apply to foreign registered vehicles.

The use of radar detectors is strictly forbidden.

### Switzerland and Liechtenstein(Central Europe)

**Side of the road used for driving:** right

**Priority:** to the right usually, but there are many exceptions to this rule, which will be stated on road signs

At roundabouts, drivers should give way to any vehicle coming from the left, even if it has not yet got onto the roundabout

**Speed limits for light vehicles, unless otherwise indicated:**

In built up areas: 50 kph (31mph)

Outside built up areas: 80kph (50mph)

Dual carriageways: 100kph (62mph)

Motorway: 120kph (75mph)

**Blood alcohol limit (beyond which driving is prohibited):** 0.5 grams per litre

**Using a hand held mobile phone while driving:** prohibited, although hands-free kits are permitted

**Safety belts:** obligatory, in the front and the back

**Drivers are obliged to have:** 1 warning triangle

**Obligation to have dipped headlights switched on during the daytime for motor vehicles:** no, but this is recommended

**Practical information:**

**Road signs/signals:**

Motorways have green road signs. Main roads have blue road signs. On narrow mountain roads with passing points, drivers should look out for any signals and indications given by drivers of public transport in queuing traffic

Narrow mountain roads with passing points. There are a lot of blue parking zones. Do not forget to use a parking disc.

**Emergency numbers:**

If you need to call for urgent medical assistance, dial 144 from either a landline or a mobile telephone. 117 is the number for the police. In the event of a breakdown, the roadside assistance service can be contacted on 140.

Driving on motorways and express roads in Switzerland requires displaying a special disc on your windscreen. This system takes the place of the more usual payment kiosks elsewhere in Europe. This disc is valid for the full year in which it is printed – the last month of the previous year and the first month of the following year (e.g.: the 2006 disc is valid from 1st December 2005 until 31st January 2007). This disc can be bought at a number of places in Switzerland (customs offices, petrol stations, regional car services and branches of the Swiss Touring Club), and it can also be bought at the border and from French Automobile clubs.

**Road tolls in Europe:** **Switzerland** charges a fee for the use of motorways (green road signs). The vignette, which is a sticker applied to inside of the windscreen, costs a flat-rate price and is mandatory for motor vehicles. Vignettes can be purchased at a number of places in Switzerland (customs offices, petrol stations, regional car services and branches of the Swiss Touring Club), and it can also be bought at the border and from French Automobile clubs. They are valid from 1 December until 31 January of the year after the following year.

### Turkey (South East Europe)

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more, penalties are severe. For drivers of cars with caravans or trailers the alcohol level in the bloodstream is 0%.

**Driving licence:** The minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18. UK driving licence valid for 90 days; licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. Vehicles may be towed away if causing an obstruction.

**Fuel:** Leaded (95 octane), unleaded petrol (95 & 97 octane) and Diesel are available. LPG is available in large centres. Petrol in a can permitted (fireproof container). Credit cards accepted at many filling stations, check with your card

issuer for usage in Turkey before travel.

**Lights:** Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility, and after sunset in built up areas.

**Motorcycles:** Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

**Motor Insurance:** Third party insurance compulsory. Foreign insurance e.g. UK insurance is recognised in the European part of Turkey, check to ensure your policy covers Turkey.

Visiting motorists driving vehicles registered in the UK may use a valid Green Card when driving in Turkey. The green card must cover the whole of Turkey, i.e. both the European Part and the Asian part (Anatolia).

Visiting motorists who are not in possession of a valid Green Card or who are not in possession of a valid UK insurance policy (validated for the whole of Turkey) must take out short term insurance at the border or TTOK offices.

Passengers/Children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front seat passenger.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted. Compulsory for rear seat passengers to wear seat belts outside built up areas

**Speed limits:** Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) for cars, 43mph (70km/h) for motorcycles; motorways

74mph (120km/h) for cars and 49mph (80km/h) for motorcycles. Minimum speed on motorways: 24 mph (40 km/h). Speed limits are 10km/h less if the car has a trailer.

#### **Compulsory equipment in Turkey:**

- First aid kit – Not required for two wheeled vehicles
- Fire extinguisher – Not required for two wheeled vehicles
- Warning triangle – two required

Other rules/requirements in Turkey:

The use of the horn is generally prohibited in towns between 2200 hours until sunrise.

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

It is recommended that winter tyres are used in snowy areas and snow chains are carried.

In the event of an accident it is compulsory for the police to be called and a report obtained.

***This information is provided free of charge and may not incur the contractual or criminal liability of La Prévention Routière. This information is not intended to act as a replacement for the legal texts, to which it is generally recommended that drivers refer.***

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