

# Guide to **DRIVING ABROAD**

## **What do I need to take?**

- Your passport (with a minimum of 6 months left from your date of travel)
- A full and valid driving licence
- Travel insurance documents
- Your motor insurance certificate and insurance contact details
- VE103 or V5 documents\*
- GB sticker - make sure your vehicle displays a GB sticker if you don't have the GB Euro symbol on your number plate
- Credit cards - make sure you have a check with the card company before you go

## **What if I'm going to a non-EEA country?**

You'll need a Green Card. This is an internationally recognised document that shows you have the minimum insurance cover needed by law in the country you're visiting.

You will also need an International Driving Permit (IDP) as your UK licence alone is not sufficient outside of the EEA and Switzerland. The type of IDP required depends on the country - find out more here <https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>.

**Driver helpline**  
Call us on 0800 581 639



## Useful things to know

### A VIGNETTE

A tax disc used in place of motorway tolls. You need to buy one before using motorways in Austria, the Czech Republic and Switzerland.

### WARNING TRIANGLE

You must legally have one of these in your car at all times in every EEA country except Ireland. Check the rules for how to use them in the country to which you're travelling.

### EUROPEAN HEALTH INSURANCE CARD (EHIC)

The EHIC entitles you to reduced-cost (sometimes free) medical treatment in EEA countries and Switzerland. Be aware that the cover provided is not always comprehensive though.

### BREAKDOWN AND RECOVERY INSURANCE

Breakdowns abroad and recovering a vehicle to the UK can cost thousands of pounds and is unlikely to be covered by your motor insurance. If you drive a company car, check whether this is included in your package.

### SPEED LIMITS

- The speed limit on urban roads in the EEA is generally 50kph - about 30mph, though it is 60kph in Poland.
- The speed limit on main roads varies between 80-100kph - 50-60mph, though it is only 70kph in Sweden and can be as high as 110kph in Greece and Italy.
- Motorway speed limits are the main ones to watch out for. They vary from only 90kph (55mph) in Norway to 130kph (80mph) in some countries. There are even stretches of Autobahn in Germany with no speed limit. Always check before you travel!

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

You can call 112 from fixed and mobile phones to contact any emergency service when in Europe.

### DAYTIME RUNNING LIGHTS

In several countries it is compulsory to have them on all roads.

### HEADLIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Always adjust your headlamp beams to prevent dazzle. It's compulsory for right hand drive vehicles driven in Europe to fit adhesive masks and adjust for extra load if needed.

## ALCOHOL

Alcohol limits: 50 units in most EEA countries but 20 in Norway, Poland and Sweden, while there is zero tolerance in the Czech Republic and Hungary.

## LOW EMISSION ZONES

Low emission zones, congestion zones and urban restrictions can be found in some EEA countries. Check whether you'll need to enter any such zones before your trip, such as the new Crit'Air regulations in some French cities.

## COMPULSORY DRIVING ITEMS

Other items you may legally need to have in your car include high visibility vests, first aid kits, spare light bulbs, fire extinguishers, and even spare spectacles. Always check the legal requirements for the countries you'll be driving through before you travel – for a comprehensive list, visit the AA's website here: <https://www.theaa.com/european-breakdown-cover/driving-in-europe/what-do-i-need>

## DRIVING LAWS

Aside from driving on the right, some countries' regulations could catch you out, such as traffic from the right at junctions having priority. Again, it's best to familiarise yourself before you travel. You can find a country-by-country guide to European driving laws here: <https://www.theaa.com/european-breakdown-cover/driving-in-europe/country-by-country>

## \*V5 AND VE103 MEANING

You require a V5 abroad if you are the owner of your vehicle. The V5 is your vehicle's registration certificate or logbook. You should have received one when you bought your vehicle, but if not, or the original has been lost, you can apply for a new one here: <https://www.gov.uk/vehicle-log-book>

A VE103 is a 'vehicle on hire certificate', which shows you have permission to drive and take abroad a hired vehicle. If your vehicle is on a maintained contract with us, you can call our Freephone number, and select option 3 to get a VE103 form to allow you to take the car abroad.

## More Information

Advice: <https://www.theaa.com/driving-advice/driving-abroad/general-advice>

Insurance: Gov.uk [www.gov.uk/vehicle-insurance/driving-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/vehicle-insurance/driving-abroad)

Licences: Gov.uk [www.gov.uk/driving-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad)

If you have any questions please contact us on **0800 581 639**