



Key information for UK drivers travelling in Europe

Planning on driving in Europe? Read our guide to make sure you take the right equipment with you and are aware of the legal speed limits in the various destinations.

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If you are planning on driving in Europe, you will need to know what equipment you need to take with you and also be aware of the legal speed limits. To help avoid the risk of a fine for not carrying something as simple as a warning triangle or reflective jacket and to ensure you remain within the legal speed limits we have summarised below the key information for the most popular destinations in Europe for UK drivers

Driving in Belgium

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 120km/h (75mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 90km/h (56mph) in Brussels-Capital Region and Wallonia, 70km/h (43mph) in Flanders
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)
- **Residential areas:** 20km/h (12mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Reflective jacket
- Warning triangle

Driving in France

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 130km/h (81mph)
- **Urban motorways and dual carriageways with central reservations:** 110km/h (68mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 80km/h (50mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Reflective jacket – kept within reach
- Warning triangle
- Spare bulbs – by law you're also mandated to carry a spare bulb kit for your vehicle, should you have a failure.
- Breathalyser – while there's no fine for not having one, the law states you must be able to produce one unused, certified self-test breathalyser.
- Snow chains – compulsory in some areas during winter, must be used as per road signs



Driving in Germany

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 130km/h (81mph) on some – on others there is no official speed limit (shown by a circular white sign with five diagonal black lines)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 100km/h (62mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

It's not actually compulsory for UK-registered cars to carry any special equipment. However, it's recommended you carry a reflective jacket and warning triangle, as these are compulsory for German cars.



Driving in Italy

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 130km/h (81mph)
- **Dual carriageways:** 110km/h (68mph)
- **Urban motorways:** 70km/h (44mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 90km/h (56mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Reflective jacket
- Warning triangle
- Snow chains (or winter tyres) – depending on conditions, must be used where signs indicate



Driving in the Netherlands

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 130km/h (81mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 80km/h (50mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Like in the UK, it's not compulsory to carry any special equipment.



Driving in Portugal

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 120km/h (75mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 80km/h (50mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Photo ID
- Reflective jacket
- Prepaid motorway toll tickets – you have to prepay tolls on many motorways in Portugal. You can do this via an automated credit card system, a prepaid card activated by text message, a prepaid ticket or an electronic device that you rent temporarily and link to your bank account.



Driving in Spain

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 120km/h (75mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 90km/h (56mph) on ordinary roads, 100km/h (62mph) on roads with more than one lane in each direction
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)
- **Residential areas:** 20km/h (12mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Reflective jacket – you won't be fined for not carrying one, but you could be for not wearing one on the road should you break down, so keep it handy
- Warning triangle – one is compulsory, but two are recommended as you could get fined for using only one in the event of an accident or breakdown
- Spare wheel and tools to change a wheel
- Spare spectacles – you are NOT legally obliged to carry a spare pair of glasses with you if you need them to drive, as is sometimes reported. But according to Spain's Directorate of Traffic you could be fined if you need your glasses to drive and they're broken, so carrying a spare pair is advisable.



Driving in Switzerland

Speed limits

- **Motorways:** 120km/h (75mph)
- **Outside built-up areas:** 90km/h (56mph)
- **Built-up areas:** 50km/h (31mph)

Compulsory to carry

- Snow chains – must be used where signs indicate
- Warning triangle – must be kept within easy reach, ie, not in the boot
- Motorway tax sticker – if you drive on the motorway you'll need to display a colourful vignette sticker to show you've paid tax. You can buy these in advance online for from the official Switzerland Travel Centre, or get them from customs offices at the Swiss border– they're also sold at most Swiss post offices, petrol stations and garages. They're valid between 1 December of the previous year and 31 January of the following year. If you use the motorway without a sticker you could be fined about £158*

*Fines are subject to change – stated fine amount is valid as at 14.06.2019