

Bulgaria (South East Europe)



Touring Tips

This information should be read in conjunction with our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more the driver will be prosecuted.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle 18. An International Driving Permit (IDP) must accompany UK driving licences that do not incorporate a photograph, and it is also recommended for photo card licence holders.

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 is available. It is forbidden to carry petrol in a can. 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. Motorists should not use the 'red' pumps at the petrol stations as these are for service vehicles only.

Lights: The use of dipped headlights during daylight hours throughout the year is recommended, however their use is compulsory from the 1st November to the 31st 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.

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 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
- 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, some petrol stations and offices of the 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.

Drivers of luxury or 4 x 4 vehicles are advised to use guarded car parks.

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.

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