

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 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. The police can test drivers for the use of drugs at the roadside.

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 communities model. An IDP is compulsory for licences that do not incorporate a photo.

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. Importation of fuel in a spare can prohibited.

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 1st 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 the age of 3 may not be transported in vehicles not fitted with child restraints. Children aged 3 or over, measuring less than 150cm may travel in a vehicle without restraints but they must occupy a rear seat.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front and 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: 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

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- **Reflective jackets** - The wearing of a reflective jacket is compulsory for any person who has to step out of a vehicle, 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) €12, and also purchase a 'vignette' (road tax). The vignette is available at the border, most petrol stations and offices of the CI and DZI Bank, weekly, monthly or annually. Heavy fines are imposed for non-compliance.

Winter tyres are recommended in winter. Snow chains are permitted. Their use can become compulsory according to road conditions, in which case this is indicated by the international road sign. Maximum speed limit with snow chains is 31mph (50 km/h). 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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