

# Italy and San Marino (Southern Europe)

## Touring Tips



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

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.051 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines, confiscation of vehicle and imprisonment.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 125cc or with passenger) 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Italy. 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. Fines are particularly heavy for speeding offences. The police can impose the fine and collect 1 quarter of the maximum fine, and must give a receipt for the amount of the fine paid. Fines for serious offences committed at night between 2200 and 0700 hours are increased by 30%, serious offences include speeding, going through a red etc. Illegally parked vehicles can be clamped or towed away and a fine imposed.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel (Gasolio) and LPG is available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Italy & San Marino before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory outside built-up areas and during snow and rain / poor visibility. Rear fog lights may only be used when visibility is less than 50 metres or in case of strong rain or intense snow. Lights must be switched on in tunnels.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory on all roads. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger. The vehicle can be seized for non-compliance. It is prohibited to carry a child less than 5 years on a moped or motorcycle. The registration certificate must state that the moped / motorcycle is designed to carry a passenger. Motorcycles under 150cc are not allowed on motorways.

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

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children less than 1.5m have to use a UNECE approved child restraint system. Rear-facing child restraints must not be used in a passenger seat equipped with an active passenger airbag.

**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 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) on ordinary roads, 68mph (110km/h) on dual carriageways and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways.

**Note:** In wet weather lower speed limits of 55mph (90km/h) apply on dual carriageways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways.

Restrictions apply if vehicles are using spiked tyres.

### **Compulsory equipment in Italy and San Marino:**

- **Warning triangle** - (for all vehicles with more than two wheels).
- **Reflective jacket** - The wearing of reflectorised jacket / waistcoat compulsory if driver and / or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway at night or in poor visibility.
- **Snow chains** - In the area of Val d'Aosta, vehicles must be equipped with winter tyres or snow chains from the 15<sup>th</sup> October until the 15<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Other rules/requirements in Italy and San Marino:**

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

Any vehicle with an overhanging load (e.g. carrying bicycle at rear) must display a **fully** reflectorised square panel 50cm x 50cm which is red and white diagonally striped, a fine may be imposed if the sign is not displayed. This also applies to vehicles such as cars/caravans carrying bicycles at the rear.

Tolls are levied on the majority of motorways.

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

The transportation or use of radar detectors is prohibited. Violation of this regulation will result in a fine between 708 and 2834 Euros and confiscation of the device.

Eco-pass: - An experimental pollution charge is levied in the centre of Milan. Charges apply Mon-Fri and generally from 7.30am until 7.30pm. Drivers must purchase an eco-pass before entering the restricted zone. Tariffs vary according to the emissions of the vehicle. Full information can be found by clicking on the following link (this is only available in Italian)

[www.comune.milano.it/dseserver/ecopass/richiedere.html](http://www.comune.milano.it/dseserver/ecopass/richiedere.html)

Traffic is restricted in many historical centres/major towns known as 'Zona a Traffico Limitato' or ZTL's, circulation is only permitted for residents.



Entering such areas normally results in a fine by post.

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