

# Spain (South West 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, severe penalties include fines and withdrawal of visitor's driving licence. Drivers with less than 2 years experience, 0.03%. Severe penalties include imprisonment for non compliance

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18. Motorcycles up to 125cc 16years, over125cc 18 years. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Spain. 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. An official receipt should be obtained. Illegally parked vehicles can be towed away. Wheel clamps are also in use.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted. Diesel (Gasoleo 'A' or Gas-oil) available

Note: Gasoleo 'B' is heating oil only.

LPG is available under the name of "Autogas", but there are only a few sales outlets at present. For locations please see map on website at [www.repsolypf.com](http://www.repsolypf.com) or [www.spainautogas.com](http://www.spainautogas.com) Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Spain before travel.

**Lights:** The use of full headlights in built-up areas is prohibited; use sidelights or dipped headlights depending on how well lit the roads are. Dipped headlights must be used in tunnels.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory, this includes trikes and quads unless they are equipped with seat belts. A child between 7 and 11 years old may be transported as a passenger on a motorcycle driven by his mother, father or authorised person. He / she must wear a helmet suitable for his/her size. Moped drivers under the age of 18 can not transport passengers. A child under the age of 7 can not be transported at all.

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

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children up to the age of 12, measuring less than 135 cm must be seated in a child restraint system adapted to their size and weight, except when travelling in a taxi in an urban area. Children measuring more than 135 cm may use an adult seatbelt.

**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: 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) on 2nd category roads, 62 mph (100 km/h) on 1st category roads and 74 mph (120 km/h) on motorways. On motorways and dual carriage ways in built up areas 49 mph (80km/h). Minimum speed on motorways and dual carriageways: 37 mph (60 km/h). Some residential zones are 13 mph (20kph)

### **Stop Press:**

From the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011 Spain will enforce a temporary reduction in the speed limit on highways to 110 kph (68 mph). A reduction from 120kph (75 mph). – From the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011 the standard speed limit on motorways (as detailed above) will be reinstated.

During 2011, the speed limit in built up areas on roads with one lane in each direction (two way streets) and single-lane streets will be reduced to 30 km/h. This information will be updated when further information is received.

### **Compulsory equipment in Spain:**

- **Spare tyre** – or tyre repair kit and the equipment to change the tyre
- **Warning triangle** - one warning triangle compulsory for foreign registered vehicles but carrying two is recommended as, in an accident/breakdown situation; local officials may impose a fine if only one is produced. Not required for two wheeled vehicles.
- **Reflective jacket** - The wearing of reflectorised jacket/waistcoat compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways and main or busy roads. However, it is not mandatory to carry a reflectorised jacket in the vehicle and Spanish police cannot fine a foreign motorist who does not carry one. Be aware as car hire companies are not under legal obligation to supply them to persons hiring vehicles, so often don't.

### **Other rules/requirements in Spain:**

It is recommended that a driver who wears glasses should carry a spare pair with them if this is noted on your driving licence.

Apparatus with a screen which can distract a driver (such as television, video, DVD equipment) should be positioned in places where the driver is unable to see them.

This excludes GPS systems. It is prohibited to touch or program the device unless parked in a safe place.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited, severe penalty for non compliance.

In urban areas it is prohibited to sound the horn at any time, except in an emergency. Lights may be flashed in place of using the horn.

The use of snow chains is recommended in snow weather conditions, police can stop vehicles not fitted with snow chains. Maximum speed when using snow chains is 50 km/h. The winter period is usually from November to March.

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

In case of a car towing a caravan/trailer exceeding 12m, there must be two yellow reflectors at the rear of the towed caravan or trailer.

A load may exceed the length of a private vehicle at the rear by up to 10% of its length. The load must be indicated by a panel with diagonal red and white stripes. If you wish to carry bicycles on the rear of your vehicle, you will need a 50 x 50 cm reflectorised panel, which can be brought from most caravan/motor home accessory shops or from [www.fiamma.com](http://www.fiamma.com) – they are available in plastic or aluminium.

In some cities in one way streets, vehicles must be parked on the side of the road where houses bear uneven numbers on uneven days of the month, and on the side of even numbers on even days.

Only fully hands-free phone systems are permitted. The use of earpieces or headphones while driving is banned. Failure to comply carries a fine of €200.

Motorists should be aware of contrived incidents. Foreign registered vehicles, especially those towing caravans, and hire cars are often targeted in service areas or tricked in to stopping on the hard shoulder by the occupant of a passing vehicle. They will gesture that something is wrong with the vehicle. Lock all doors and keep bags out of sight. The number of thefts by bogus policemen has increased in Madrid and Catalonia.

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