



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

ALBANIA (SOUTH EAST EUROPE)

IMPORTANT – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is advising against travel to some areas; contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their web site at www.fco.gov.uk for latest information.

Drinking and driving: is strictly forbidden. No alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle is 18; the UK licence should be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: on-the-spot.

Fuel: leaded petrol is available but can be in short supply, and when it is available it will be low octane. Unleaded petrol is not generally available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel is available, but not LPG. Credit cards are not accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Albania before travelling.

Lights: visiting motorists should avoid night driving.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: there is no restriction on the age of front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: advised for front-seat occupants where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: keep strictly to the speed limit signs. Standard legal limits (varied by signs) apply for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 18–21mph (30–35km/h), outside built-up areas 21–24mhp (35–40km/h).

Special features: temporarily importing and driving a vehicle in Albania is not recommended, as roads and driving standards are poor. If this is unavoidable we recommend that you equip your vehicle with a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, spare bulbs and a warning triangle.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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ANDORRA (SOUTH WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: penalties are severe for levels of alcohol in the blood exceeding 0.05 per cent.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot.

Fuel: leaded (98 octane) and unleaded (95 and 98 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Gasoil) available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Andorra before travelling.

Lights: use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under ten cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: required for front-seat occupants where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) apply for private vehicles with or without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h).

Special features: you must equip your vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs and a warning triangle.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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AUSTRIA (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: fines are levied if the level of alcohol in the blood is between 0.05 per cent and 0.08 per cent. A fine and/or a driving ban in Austria is applied if the level is more than 0.08 per cent.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can use a temporarily imported car is 18. For motorcycles up to 50cc the minimum age is 16; for motorcycles over 50cc it is 18.

Note UK driving licences that do not have a photograph are only valid when accompanied by photographic proof of identity, eg passport.

Fines: on-the-spot. Be sure to get an official receipt from the officer collecting the fine.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (91, 95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations. Check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Austria before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are required in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 14 years and 1.5m in height cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: required for all occupants where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 62mph (100km/h) and motorways 80mph (130km/h). Vehicles unable to sustain a minimum speed of 37mph (60km/h) are not permitted on motorways.

Special features: a warning triangle and first-aid kit are compulsory. All vehicles using Austrian motorways and expressways must display a motorway tax sticker (vignette). The stickers are valid for one calendar year, two calendar months or ten days. You can buy these at many petrol stations close to the border in neighbouring countries, and in Austria at the frontier or in ÖAMTC (Austrian automobile club) offices.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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BELARUS (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: is strictly forbidden (no alcohol in drivers' blood).

Driving licence: an International Driving Permit (IDP) is required for UK licence holders. The minimum age at which a visitor can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: payable on-the-spot or to a bank, and driving licences must be presented to the State Auto Inspection.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (76, 92, 95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol. You are permitted to carry petrol in a metal container (must be declared on entry). Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at large filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Belarus before travelling.

Lights: avoid night driving – there is no breakdown service and poor road information between small towns.

Motorcycles: temporary importation of motorcycles is permitted. Crash helmets are compulsory. You must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: compulsory for front and rear-seat occupants where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: Keep strictly to the speed-limit signs. Standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and up to 68mph (110km/h) on different sections of the Brest – Moscow motorway.

NOTE: All motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: a road tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document, you must carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are compulsory. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares for your vehicle, including fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. It is against the law to drive a dirty car. You should plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure. Health insurance is compulsory for all visitors.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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BELGIUM (WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if you have between 0.05 per cent and 0.08 per cent of alcohol in your blood you will be subject to an on-the-spot fine of up to EUR137, plus surrender of your driving licence for three hours; if there is a police prosecution you will be fined up to EUR2,750. For alcohol levels of more than 0.08 per cent, you will be fined up to EUR550 and must surrender your driving licence for six hours. If there is a police prosecution because you have more than 0.15 per cent of alcohol in your blood, you will be subject to a fine of up to EUR11,000, and licence suspension of up to five years.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot. You must get an official receipt showing the amount of the fine from the officer collecting the fine.

Note motorists can refuse to pay an on-the-spot fine. However if you do refuse you can be invited to make a surety payment; if you do not your vehicle will be impounded.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but anti-wear additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but not aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Belgium before travelling.

Lights: use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility. Parked vehicles should use front and rear lights (or parking lights) when visibility is less than 200m (219yds), or at night when public lighting is insufficient to make vehicles visible from 100m (109yds).

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are required during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under three cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using a suitable child-restraint system. Children under three in the back must use a restraint if suitable restraint system is available. Children over three and under 12 in the front or rear must use seatbelts or child restraints appropriate to the size and weight of the child.

Seat belts: compulsory for front-and rear-seat occupants where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles with or without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and on motorways and dual carriageways with a central reservation 74mph (120km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: warning triangles compulsory. Traffic on roundabouts must give way to traffic coming from right, unless varied by road signs.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: there are severe penalties – including fine, imprisonment and suspension of driving licence – for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot or, for more serious violations, sentence by local court. Ensure you are issued an official receipt.

Fuel: leaded (98 octane) and unleaded (95 and 98 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Dizel) is available, but LPG is not. Credit cards accepted at a few filling stations in the Sarajevo area; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Bosnia-Herzegovina before travelling.

Lights: You must use dipped headlights during the day in the south east; elsewhere use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: You must use dipped headlights during the day in the south west; elsewhere use dipped headlights outside built-up areas. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: a person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. Children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: compulsory for front- and rear-seat where belts are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h), but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways.

Special features: visitors must equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. First-aid kit and warning triangle are compulsory (two triangles are required if you are towing a trailer). Any visible damage to a vehicle entering Bosnia-Herzegovina must be certified by the authorities at the frontier and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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BULGARIA (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: drivers with a level of alcohol in the blood 0.05 per cent or more will be prosecuted.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.
NOTE: UK licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: on-the-spot. If you pay a fine, be sure to get an official receipt.

Fuel: leaded (92 octane) and unleaded (95 and 98 octane) petrol is available. You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at Shell and OMV filling stations, but not all local stations accept international cards. Check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Bulgaria before travelling.

Lights: use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers. Use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under ten cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: outside built-up areas, front-seat passengers must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and warning triangle are compulsory. Foreign-registered cars temporarily imported into Bulgaria are subject to an entry tax (US\$10) and their wheels must be disinfected at the frontier (fee US\$2); payment must be in US Dollars or Euros and fines are imposed for non-payment. Motorway tolls are included in the entry tax; payment can be in Leva, US Dollars or Euros.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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CROATIA (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: is strictly forbidden (no alcohol to be found in the driver's blood).

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 18.

Fines: police can impose fines but not collect them on-the-spot. The fine must be paid into an official bank account within eight days. The police may hold your passport until you produce evidence that you have paid your fine.

Fuel: leaded (98 octane) and unleaded (95 and 98 octane) petrol is available. You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Dizel) is available; LPG is available in some larger towns. Credit cards are accepted at all state filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Croatia before travelling.

Lights: use of dipped headlights during the day is compulsory.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers. A child, under the age of 12, must not travel as a passenger.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under the age of 12 must not travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but 68mph (110km/h) on expressways and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Note that all motorists who have held a driving licence for under two years must not exceed 49mph (80km/h) on normal roads outside built-up areas, 62mph (100km/h) on expressways and 68 mph (110km/h) on motorways.

Special features: visitors must equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs, and a tow rope or tow bar. First-aid kit and warning triangle are compulsory (two triangles required if you are towing a trailer). During winter months, especially in the Gorski Kotar region, snow chains are compulsory. Any visible damage to a vehicle entering Croatia must be certified by the authorities at the frontier and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving the country.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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CYPRUS (Republic of) (EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. Motorists suspected of drink-driving can be subjected to a blood or breath test – the legal limit is 90mg alcohol in 100ml (blood) or 39mg alcohol in 100ml (breath).

Driving licence: a UK licence is acceptable. The minimum age for driving a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot fines for parking offences.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-replacement petrol is available as super 98 octane. You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans in a vehicle. Diesel is available, but not LPG. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in the Republic of Cyprus before travelling.

Lights: lights are required between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under five cannot travel as front-seat passengers; children over five and under ten must use a suitable child-restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) and 62mph (100km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 40mph (65km/h).

Special features: the rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right. You must carry two warning triangles. Use of the horn is prohibited between 10pm and 6am, and in the vicinity of hospitals.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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CYPRUS (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) (EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN)

Drinking and driving: Drivers can have up to 80mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood, provided they are capable of driving.

Driving licence: A UK licence acceptable. The minimum age for driving a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: there are no on-the-spot fines.

Fuel: leaded (98 octane) and unleaded (95 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel (Mazot) is available, but not LPG. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus before travelling.

Lights: vehicle lights must be used between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise.

Motorcycles: wearing of crash helmets is compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory. Green Cards are not accepted. Short-term insurance can be purchased at the port of arrival.

Passengers/children in cars: children under five cannot travel as front-seat passengers; children over five and under ten must use a suitable child restraint.

Seat belts: compulsory for front-seat occupants.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 43mph (70km/h) or 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: the rule of the road is to drive on the left; overtake on the right. You are required to carry two warning triangles. Road signs are mostly in English.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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CZECH REPUBLIC (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is permitted in drivers' blood; there are potential prison sentences for offenders.

Driving licence: The minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car is 18, for a motorcycle (exceeding 50cc) it is 17.

All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in the Czech Republic. This includes the older style, all green UK licences and their Northern Ireland equivalent paper licence with photograph. The EC appreciates that these older style licences may be more difficult to understand, and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before they travel abroad.

An application form D1 (known as a DL1 in Northern Ireland) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, you may choose to carry an International Driving Permit (IDP) with your older style licence.

Fines: on-the-spot fines up to CZK5000. Get an official receipt for any fines paid.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel (nafta) and LPG are available. Leaded petrol is not available, but lead replacement petrol is available as 91 octane. You are allowed to carry petrol in cans. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations but there are no automatic pumps. Check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in the Czech Republic before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day in winter (see also Motorcycles, below). Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be inoperable.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day throughout the year. Crash helmets and goggles are compulsory for drivers and passengers on machines over 50cc capable of speeds over 24mph (40km/h). Motorcyclists cannot smoke while riding.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 are not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system; any person under 18 less than 1.5m tall travelling in the front or rear must use suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways (for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg and buses) 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 49mph (80km/h).

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Czech Republic continued

Special features: you must carry a first-aid kit, warning triangle and a set of replacement bulbs for your car. All four-wheeled vehicles on motorways must display a motorway tax sticker; vehicles without stickers are subject to fines. You can buy stickers at the Czech frontier, UAMK branch offices, petrol stations or post offices for periods of ten days, one month or one year. For vehicles over 12 tonnes only, a one-day sticker is also available.

Any visible damage to a vehicle entering the Czech Republic must be certified by the authorities at the frontier. If any damage occurs inside the country you must get a police report at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles can only be taken out of the country on production of the report.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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DENMARK (NORTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood exceeding 0.05 per cent there are severe penalties include licence suspension, fines or imprisonment.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot. Visitors who infringe traffic regulations can expect a fine.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (92, 95 and 98 octane), diesel, and LPG are available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead substitute petrol is available as 98 octane. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but not aboard ferries. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your Denmark before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets with straps are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under three in front or rear must be seated in a child restraint system appropriate to their size. Children over three can use a child restraint instead of a seat belt, or a seat belt combined with booster cushion.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 68mph (110km/h) or 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: you must carry a warning triangle. We recommend that you equip your vehicle with a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit. Generally there is a rule to give way to traffic approaching from the right. A line of white triangles (shark's teeth) painted across the road indicates that you must stop and give way to traffic on the road you are entering.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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ESTONIA (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is permitted in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycles is 18.

Fines: the police officer will impose an on-the-spot fine, and will provide details of an official bank account into which you must pay the fine within 15 days.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available, but no leaded petrol. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel is available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Estonia before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children too small to wear a seat belt must travel in a special child seat.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but up to 74mph (120km/h) on some roads during the summer months.

NOTE: visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 55mph (90km/h) outside built-up areas.

Special features: you must carry a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, wheel chocks, winter tyres (between December and February) and warning triangle. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares, such as a fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. In addition to the original vehicle registration document we recommend that you carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) if you will be visiting any Russian-speaking areas outside Estonia.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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FINLAND (NORTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for a level of alcohol in blood between 0.05 per cent and 0.12 per cent you will receive a fine or imprisonment and your driving licence will be withdrawn; for over 0.12 per cent, imprisonment and withdrawal of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car is 18; for motorcycles not exceeding 125cc the age is 16, for motorcycles exceeding 125cc, 18.

Fines: police can impose fines – payable at a bank – for parking and other minor infringements.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead substitute is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel is available but not LPG. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Finland before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for both drivers and passengers. Passengers must be age 15 or over.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 and less than 1.5 metres tall must use a seat belt or child-restraint system. Children under three must be seated in rear in a child seat, or using normal seat belts if no child seat is available.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: inside built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) according to the quality of road; 49mph (80km/h) is the upper limit where there are no signs. On motorways the limit is 74mph (120km/h), with no minimum limit.

Note: reduce speeds to between 18–31mph (30–50km/h) on roads covered with gravel or loose stones (usually during roadworks). In winter (October–March), the upper speed limits outside built-up areas and on motorways of 62mph (100km/h) and 74mph (120km/h) are reduced to 49mph (80km/h) and 62mph (100km/h) respectively.

Special features: warning triangles are compulsory. Winter tyres are compulsory between December and February. Beware of game (elk, reindeer, etc) as this is a serious danger on some roads.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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FRANCE AND MONACO (WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: there are severe penalties if the level of alcohol in the blood is 0.05 per cent or more. Penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or confiscation of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car is 18; for motorcycles up to 125cc, 16; for motorcycles over 125cc, 18.

Fines: on-the-spot fines or 'deposits' are severe. Be sure to get an official receipt.

Lights: use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility. Additionally, as of 31 October 2004 it is highly recommended by the French Government that dipped headlights are used by 4+ wheeled vehicles outside built up areas day and night (already compulsory for motorcycles).

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead-replacement petrol 'Super ARS' or lead-substitute additives are available. Carrying petrol in cans permitted, but forbidden aboard ferries and motorails. Diesel (Gazole) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in France and Monaco before travelling.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are compulsory during the day for motorcycles exceeding 125cc. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers of any two-wheel motorised vehicle.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under ten cannot travel as front-seat passengers, with the exception of babies – up to nine months and under 9kg – in rear-facing seats. Children under ten in the rear must use a restraint system appropriate to their weight: between 9–15kg child seat, over 15kg booster seat in conjunction with normal seat belts).

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants, must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h), but 68mph (110km/h) on dual carriageways separated by a central reservation and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Lower speed limits apply in **wet weather** and to visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years: 49mph (80km/h) outside built-up areas, 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways.

Note holders of EU driving licences who exceed the speed limit by more than 24mph (40km/h) will have their licences confiscated immediately by the police.

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France and Monaco continued

Special features: warning triangle or hazard warning lights are compulsory (we recommend that you always carry a warning triangle). Visitors should carry a set of replacement bulbs. In built-up areas, give way to traffic coming from the right – 'Priorité à droite'. At roundabouts signed 'Vous n'avez pas la priorité' or 'Cédez le passage' traffic on the roundabout has priority; otherwise traffic entering the roundabout has priority.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

GERMANY (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, penalties include endorsement of the driving licence, when the licence holder is banned from driving.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot fine or deposit. Motorists can be fined for such things as exceeding speed limits, using abusive language, making derogatory signs and running out of petrol on a motorway.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (91, 95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Germany before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are required during the day if fog, snow or rain restrict visibility. Driving with side lights (parking lights) alone is not allowed.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Children under 12 or under 1.5m in height cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system, where this is fitted.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts, where these are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas including dual carriageways 62mph (100km/h) and on motorways a recommended maximum of 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 37mph (60km/h).

Special features: visiting UK motorists are not required to carry a warning triangle, but we recommend that you do, as its use is compulsory. We also recommend that you carry a first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs. Slow-moving vehicles must stop at suitable places and let others pass.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

GIBRALTAR (SOUTH-WEST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the driver's bloodstream is 0.08 per cent or more the penalties are severe.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: there are no on-the-spot fines, but vehicles can be clamped or towed away.

Fuel: leaded (95 octane) and unleaded (97 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in purpose-made steel containers, on payment of duty. Diesel is available, but LPG is not. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Gibraltar before travelling.

Lights: full headlights are prohibited; use dipped headlights at night.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory (British motorists can carry a British certificate of motor insurance).

Passengers/children in cars: children under four cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system; if they travel in the rear they must use a suitable restraint system if available. Children between four and 17 must use seat belts or a restraint system appropriate to their size when travelling as front- or rear-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts, where these are fitted.

Speed limits: the standard legal limit for cars and motorcycles within the City of Gibraltar is 18mph (30km/h), outside the city the limit is 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: warning triangles are not compulsory. The use of car horn is not permitted within the city limits. The Spanish–Gibraltar frontier at La Linea is open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic of all nationalities.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

GREECE (SOUTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the driver's blood is 0.05 per cent or more this is a criminal offence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 50cc) is 17.

Fines: police can impose fines, but cannot collect them on-the-spot. Fines must be paid at a Public Treasury office within ten days. You can be fined for the unnecessary use of a car horn.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-replacement petrol is available as Super 2002 – 98 octane). You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Petroleo) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Greece before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility. Use of undipped headlights in towns is strictly prohibited.

Motorcycles: we recommend the use of dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front-seat occupants must wear seat belts.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h) for cars, 24mph (40km/h) for motorcycles; outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) for cars, 43mph (70km/h) for motorcycles; motorways 74mph (120km/h) for cars and 55mph (90km/h) for motorcycles. Minimum speed on motorways varies; ask locally if you require this information.

Special features: you must carry a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and warning triangle. The police can confiscate the number plates of illegally parked vehicles throughout Greece. Generally this only applies to Greek-registered vehicles, but the drivers of foreign-registered vehicles should take care to park legally.

*See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

HUNGARY (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: no alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood; amounts of less than 0.08 per cent incur a fine, more than 0.08 per cent are subject to legal proceedings.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK driving licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Hungary.

This includes the older style, all green UK licences and their Northern Ireland equivalent paper licence with photograph. The EC appreciates that these older style licences may be more difficult to understand, and that, if time allows, drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before they travel abroad.

An application form D1 (known as a DL1 in Northern Ireland) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, you may choose to carry an International Driving Permit (IDP) with your older style licence.

Fines: on-the-spot.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available; there is no leaded petrol. You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Dizel or Gazolaj) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at many filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Hungary before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are compulsory at all times outside built-up areas. A supplementary vehicle STOP light is permitted.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are compulsory at all times. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 1.5m in height using suitable restraint system are permitted to travel as front-seat passenger provided there is no airbag for that seat; children under 12 and/or less than 1.5m seated in the rear must use suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: seat belts (where fitted) are compulsory for front-seat occupants, and for all occupants when travelling outside built-up areas.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) on semi-motorways, and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h).

Hungary continues on the next page



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Hungary continued

Special features: you must carry a first-aid kit and warning triangle. We recommend that if you enter Hungary in a conspicuously damaged vehicle, you get a police report confirming the damage at the time of entry. Otherwise you can be delayed at the frontier when leaving the country. A motorway tax is payable for use of M1 (Budapest–Hegyeshalom), M3 (Budapest–Polgar), M5 (Budapest-Kiskunfélegyháza) and M7 (Budapest–Lake Balaton). You must display a tax sticker on your windscreen, available from MAK offices, large petrol stations near motorways and the offices of motorway companies. The stickers, which may be purchased in Hungarian forints only, are valid for four days (vehicles up to 3.5tonnes only), ten days, one month or one year. Fines are imposed if you are travelling on a motorway without a tax sticker.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

ICELAND (NORTH ATLANTIC)

Drinking and driving: there are severe penalties, including the withdrawal of a driving licence, for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 50cc) is 17.

Fines: traffic police can charge on-the-spot fines, but usually they are not allowed to accept payment. Fines are paid at a police station, or to the official bank account advised by the police.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead-substitute petrol is available as 98 octane. You are not allowed to import fuel in a can. Diesel is available; LPG is not. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Iceland before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: compulsory for front-and rear-seat occupants where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) on gravel roads and 55mph (90km/h) on paved roads.

Special features: warning triangles are compulsory. We also recommend that you carry a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and set of replacement bulbs.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

IRELAND (Republic of) (WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the blood is 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine and/or imprisonment plus disqualification.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 150cc) is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot fines are imposed for parking and speeding offences.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead-replacement petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but not aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Ireland before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 30mph, outside built-up areas 60mph and 70mph on motorways. There is no minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: drive on the left; overtake on the right. Warning triangles are compulsory for vehicles with an unladen weight exceeding 1,524kg (1.5 tons).

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

ITALY AND SAN MARINO (SOUTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the blood is 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and imprisonment.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 125cc or with a passenger) is 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Italy. However an old-style green UK licence (or older paper-style with photograph in Northern Ireland) can be difficult to understand, and you should consider updating it before you travel if there is time (application form D1, or DL1 in Northern Ireland, from post offices). Or you can also carry an International Driving Permit.

Fines: on-the-spot; particularly heavy for speeding offences. The police must issue a receipt for the fine.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead a substitute additive is available). You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Gasolio) and LPG are available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations along most major autoroutes and in major towns; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Italy and San Marino before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are compulsory during the day outside built-up areas. You must use dipped headlights when passing through tunnels, irrespective of length or lighting.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are compulsory during the day on all roads. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under four cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system. Children between four and 12 cannot travel in the front seat unless using suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: 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. A speed limit of 93mph (150km/h) is planned for some three-lane, plus emergency lane, motorways.

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

Italy and San Marino continues on the next page



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Italy and San Marino continued

Special features: warning triangles are compulsory. We recommend that you carry a set of replacement bulbs. Motorcycles under 150cc are not allowed on motorways. Third-party insurance is compulsory for motorboats used in Italian waters (you must carry an Italian translation of the insurance certificate). Any vehicle with an overhanging load (eg bicycle at rear) must display a reflective square panel.

Note You must wear a reflective jacket or waistcoat if you leave an immobilised vehicle on the carriageway at night or in poor visibility.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

LATVIA (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: penalties for drivers are severe if alcohol in the blood is 0.05 per cent or more.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 125cc) is 18.

Fines: no on-the-spot fines.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Latvia before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are required during the day.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are required during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children less than 1.5m must use a restraint system appropriate to their size and weight.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or, where indicated, 62mph (100km/h).

NOTE: visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are all compulsory. Winter tyres are compulsory from 1 December to 1 March. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares for your vehicle, such as a fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. In addition to the original vehicle registration document you should have an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) for visiting any Russian speaking areas.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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LITHUANIA (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if drivers' level of alcohol in the blood is 0.04 per cent or more, severe penalties include a fine (LTL3000 to 5000) and/or withdrawal of driving licence from one to three years.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle is 18. UK licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by photographic proof of identity, such as a passport.

Fines: on-the-spot fines of up to LTL200 can be levied, higher amounts are payable through a bank.

Fuel: leaded (95 octane) and unleaded petrol (92, 95 and 98 octane) are available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Lithuania before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights during the day are compulsory from 1 September (beginning of school year) to 1 April.

Motorcycles: third-party insurance is compulsory

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using a child restraint appropriate to their age and size.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and on dual carriageways 68mph (110km/h).

Note in summer a limit of 80mph (130km/h) applies on the dual carriageways between Vilnius – Panevezys and Kaunas – Klaipeda.

Special features: first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are all compulsory. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares for your vehicle, such as a fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. As well as the original vehicle registration document, we recommend that you carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) for visiting any Russian-speaking areas.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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LUXEMBOURG (WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in drivers' blood is 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and/or prison.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot. Illegal parking can result in the car being impounded.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol but Super (98 octane) contains lead-substitute additive (pumps marked 'essence sans plomb 98 avec substitut au plomb'). You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Luxembourg before travelling.

Lights: sidelights are required when parking where there is no public lighting. It is compulsory to flash headlights when overtaking at night outside built-up areas.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are required during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers. Children under 12 are not permitted as passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 or less than 1.5m in height cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system appropriate to their size; in the rear, children under three must be seated in a suitable restraint system. Children over three must wear a normal seat belt in the absence of a child seat, but are permitted to wear only the abdominal part of the belt if under 1.5m.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 80mph (130km/h) but reduced to 68mph (110km/h) during wet weather. Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Note visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than one year must not exceed 46mph (75km/h).

Special features: you are not required to carry a warning triangle, but we recommend that you do so, since you are required to use it.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

MACEDONIA (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot. Be sure to get an official receipt.

Fuel: leaded (96 octane) and unleaded (90 and 95 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most 'Makpetrol' filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Macedonia before travelling.

Lights: use of dipped headlights during the day is compulsory.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: anyone visibly under the influence of alcohol, and children under 12, are not permitted to travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles with or without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h), but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and motorways. The minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: visitors must equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs, a first-aid kit and warning triangle (two triangles if you are towing a trailer). If you enter Macedonia in a car with visible damage, you must get a certificate noting the damage when you enter the country, and produce this at the frontier when leaving.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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MALTA (MEDITERRANEAN)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and imprisonment.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: no on-the-spot fines but if you commit any motoring or parking offence for which a fine is payable, this must be settled prior to departure.

Fuel: leaded (98 octane) and unleaded (95 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel is available, but not LPG. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Malta before travelling.

Lights: spotlights are prohibited.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under the age of three must not travel as front or rear-seat passengers without a suitable restraint system. Children between the ages of three and ten, who are under 1.5m in height, must use adult seat belts and/or a restraint system (as appropriate) when travelling in the front or rear seats of the car. Children between the ages of eleven and fourteen (or younger if they are over 1.5m in height) must use adult seat belts when travelling in the front or rear of the car.

Seat belts: compulsory for all front and rear-seat occupants.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: drive on the left, overtake on the right. We recommend that you carry a warning triangle.

NOTE: private motor vehicles can be temporarily imported with a temporary import permit valid for three months.

* See also General Information at the end of this document



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MOLDOVA (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: current information suggests that only the 1968 version of the International Driving Permit (IDP) is acceptable, not 1926 or 1949 versions. Visiting motorists need a certified Moldovan translation of their UK licence. Contact the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova, 54 Rue Tenbosch, 1050 Brussels, Belgium (telephone 00 32 2 732 96 59) for guidance. The minimum age at which a visitor can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: usually on-the-spot.

Fuel: leaded and unleaded petrol are available but can be in short supply, and when available will be low octane. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations in larger cities, eg Chisinau (Interforma); check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Moldova before travelling.

Lights: we recommend that you avoid driving between towns at night.

Motorcycles: temporary importation of motorcycles is permitted.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: keep strictly to speed limits. Standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h).

NOTE: Visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than one year must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: a road and ecological tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document we recommend that you carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles if you are visiting any Russian-speaking areas. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they display foreign plates. You must carry a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. It is illegal to drive a dirty car. We recommend that you plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

NETHERLANDS (WESTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the blood is 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include withdrawal of driving licence and imprisonment.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available; there is no leaded petrol, but lead-substitute petrol is available as Super, 98 octane. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in the Netherlands before travelling.

Lights: undipped headlights cannot be used during the day, or when their use inconveniences other traffic or pedestrians. Sidelights only are prohibited.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 or less than 1.5m in height cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system. But a child of ten and 1.6 metres or more in height can sit in the front wearing normal seat belts. Children under three in the rear do not have to wear a seat belt, but must use a child seat or restraint if one is fitted. Children over three and under 12 must wear a seat belt if there are no child seats or restraints.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) and motorways 74mph (120km/h). There is no minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: a warning triangle or hazard warning lights must be used in accidents or breakdowns (we recommend that you always carry a warning triangle). Buses have right of way when leaving bus-stops in built-up areas. Trams have right of way except when crossing a priority road. Be aware of cyclists and skaters.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

NORWAY (NORTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in the blood exceeds 0.02 per cent, severe penalties include heavy fines, prison and surrender of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot fines for minor offences.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available; there is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute petrol is available as Super, 98 octane. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel is available but LPG availability is limited. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Norway before travelling.

Lights: use of dipped headlights during the day is compulsory.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under four cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passengers unless seated in a rear-facing child seat (you can hire baby/child seats in the Oslo area – for information contact the Norwegian Automobile Club in Oslo, telephone 22 34 14 00).

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) and 55mph (90km/h) on motorways.

Special features: warning triangles are compulsory. We recommend that you carry a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and set of replacement bulbs. There are some road, bridge and tunnel tolls; motorists entering Bergen, Kristiansand, Stavanger, Oslo, Tønsberg and Trondheim must pay city tolls.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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POLAND (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: if the level of alcohol in your bloodstream is between 0.02% and 0.05%, you are guilty of a civil offence. If the level is over 0.05%, you are guilty of a criminal offence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car and/or a motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 17. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Poland. This includes the older style, all green UK licences and their Northern Ireland equivalent paper licence with photograph. The EC appreciates that these older style licences may be more difficult to understand, and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before they travel abroad. An application form D1 (known as a DL1 in Northern Ireland) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, you may choose to carry an International Driving Permit (IDP) with your older style licence.

Fines: on-the-spot. Be sure to get an official receipt.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available; there is no leaded petrol, but 95 octane petrol with lead-replacement additive is available. You are not permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Poland before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility. You must use dipped headlights during the day from 1 October to the end of February.

Motorcycles: dipped headlights are required outside built-up areas during the day. Crash helmets are required for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 and less than 1.5 metres tall cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passengers unless using suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h) from 11:00pm to 05:00am and 31mph (50km/h) from 05:00am to 11:00pm, outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h), on express roads (2 x 1 lane) 62mph (100 km/h) or (2 x 2 lanes) 68mph (110km/h) and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: you must carry a warning triangle, first-aid kit and fire extinguisher (first-aid kit and fire extinguisher not legally compulsory, but you can encounter problems locally if you do not have them). We recommend that you also carry a set of replacement bulbs.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

PORTUGAL (SOUTH WEST EUROPE)

IMPORTANT - In Portugal it is a legal requirement for everyone to carry photographic proof of identity at all times.

Drinking and driving: For levels of alcohol in the blood from 0.05 to 0.08 per cent, penalties will include fine and withdrawal of driving licence for one month to one year. For more than 0.08 per cent, a fine and withdrawal of driving licence for two months to two years.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 50cc) is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot. You should get an official receipt showing the amount of the fine.

NOTE: Foreign motorists refusing to pay an on-the-spot fine will be asked for a deposit to cover the maximum fine for the offence committed. If a motorist refuses to do this the vehicle will be taken by the police.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available, there is no leaded petrol, but lead-replacement petrol is available as 98 octane). You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel is available, but LPG availability is limited. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Portugal before travelling.

Note a tax of EUR 0.25 is added to credit card transactions.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility, in tunnels and on the main road linking Aveiro–Vilar Formoso at the Spanish frontier (IP5).

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory. Children under seven are not permitted as passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under the age of 12 must not travel as front-seat passengers unless they are seated in an approved child seat, or the car is a two seater. Children under the age of three must use an approved restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) and on motorways 74mph (120km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Note drivers who have held a driving licence for less than one year must not exceed 55mph (90km/h) or any lower speed limit.

Special features: warning triangle compulsory.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

ROMANIA (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood. Offenders are liable to a prison sentence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which UK licence holders can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (for up to 90 days) is 18.

Note UK driving licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: police can impose fines, but cannot collect them on-the-spot.

Fuel: leaded (95 and 98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) are available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans, but they must be empty when leaving Romania. Diesel is available but LPG availability is limited. You will have to pay tax on the petrol or diesel in your vehicle tank when leaving Romania. Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations but this is not widespread; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Romania before travelling.

Lights: you cannot drive at night if your vehicle lighting is faulty. Additional headlamps are prohibited.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are required for drivers and passengers of machines 50cc and over.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. There is no minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: you must carry a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and warning triangle. It is against the law to drive a dirty car. Any visible damage to a vehicle that enters Romania must be certified by the authorities at the frontier. If any damage occurs inside the country you must get a report at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles can only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (EASTERN EUROPE)

IMPORTANT – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is advising against travel to some areas; contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit 0870 606 0290 or visit their web site at www.fco.gov.uk for the latest information.

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, penalties are severe.

Driving licence: holders of any type of UK driving licence will also need an International Driving Permit (IDP). The minimum age at which a visitor can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: usually on-the-spot.

Fuel: low-octane leaded petrol is available, but can be in short supply. Unleaded petrol (92, 95 and 98 octane) is available, but it is advisable to keep your tank topped up whenever possible. Look for Neste petrol stations in and around Kaliningrad, Narva, Pskoy, St Petersburg and Vyborg; elsewhere, look for Lukoil or Shell stations. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations but this is not widespread; check with your card issuer before travelling to be sure you can use your card in the Russian Federation.

Lights: we recommend that you avoid driving between towns at night.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory. Children under 12 cannot ride as passengers.

Motor insurance: we recommend that you arrange third-party insurance cover before departure. Green Cards are not accepted.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless they are using a restraint system appropriate to their size.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: you must keep strictly to signed speed limits. Standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but 68mph (110km/h) on expressways.

Note visiting drivers who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Russian Federation continues on the next page



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

Russian Federation continued

Special features: a road tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document, we recommend that you carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles if you are visiting any Russian-speaking areas. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are all compulsory. We recommend that you carry an assortment of spares for your vehicles – fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. It is illegal to drive a dirty car. We recommend that you plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO (Union of) (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

IMPORTANT - Contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their web site at www.fco.gov.uk for the latest information.

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot. Be sure to get an official receipt.

Fuel: leaded (95 and 98 octane) and unleaded (95 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel (Dizel) and LPG are available. Credit cards are not generally accepted; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Serbia and Montenegro before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day outside built-up areas. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory, but are not accepted in Kosovo, where you must buy compulsory third-party insurance on arrival at the border.

Passengers/children in cars: persons visibly under the influence of alcohol, or children under 12 cannot travel as a front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80 km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: visitors must carry a set of replacement bulbs, a first-aid kit and a warning triangle (two triangles are required if towing trailer). Tolls are payable on most sections of motorway. If you enter Serbia and Montenegro in a visibly damaged vehicle, you must get a certificate from the authorities at the border; this must be produced when you leave.

*See also General Information at the end of this document.



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SLOVAKIA (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car is 18, for motorcycles (exceeding 50cc) the minimum age is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot (up to 2000SKK). Get an official receipt for any fines paid.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (91, 95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead substitute petrol is available as 95 and 98 octane 'UNI'. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Nafta) and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Slovakia before travelling.

Lights: dipped headlights are required during the day from 15 October to 15 March. Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be inoperable.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmet and goggles are compulsory when riding machines capable of speeds over 24mph (40km/h). Motorcyclists must not smoke while riding.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: persons less than 1.5m tall or children under 12 cannot travel as a front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits, which can be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas including dual carriageways for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways is 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: you must carry a first-aid kit, warning triangle, and a set of replacement bulbs. You must buy and display a motorway tax sticker on your windscreen to use certain highways and motorways (motorcycles excepted). You can buy tax stickers at the Slovak frontier and from some filling stations and post offices, valid for periods of 15 days or one year. For vehicles over 12 tonnes only, a one-day sticker is also available. If you use these motorways without a sticker, you are subject to a fine. Any visible damage to a vehicle that enters Slovakia must be certified by the authorities at the frontier. If damage occurs inside the country you must get a report at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles can only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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SLOVENIA (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and/or a motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot fines must be paid in local currency – Slovenian Tolar (SIT).

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel and LPG are both available. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer before travelling to be sure you can use your card in Slovenia.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers. Children under 12 cannot travel as passengers.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 and less than 1.5 metres cannot travel as front-seat passengers; children in the rear must use a suitable restraint system. Children over 12 and taller than 1.5 metres can wear normal seat belts.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on 'fast roads' (dual carriageways) and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 37mph (60km/h).

Special features: you must carry a warning triangle (two triangles are required if you are towing a trailer). Warning triangles or hazard warning lights must be used in accidents or breakdowns. We also recommend that you always carry a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and a set of replacement bulbs. If you enter Slovenia in a visibly damaged vehicle, you must get a certificate from the authorities at the border; this must be produced when you leave.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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SPAIN (SOUTH WEST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and withdrawal of driving licence.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 75cc) is 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Spain. However an old-style green UK license (or old paper-style with photo in Northern Ireland) can be difficult to understand, and you should consider updating it before you travel if there is time (application form D1, or DL1 in Northern Ireland, from post offices). Or you can also carry an International Driving Permit.

Fines: on-the-spot. Be sure to get an official receipt.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but lead-replacement petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Gasoleo 'A' or Gas-oil) is available.

Note Gasoleo 'B' is heating oil only. LPG is not available to motorists, but is only supplied to public service vehicles. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Spain before travelling.

Lights: full headlights in built-up areas are prohibited; use sidelights or dipped headlights, depending on how well lit the roads are.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using a suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: children between three and 12 and under 1.5 metres tall cannot travel as front-seat passengers unless using a restraint system appropriate to their size. If there is no child restraint, they must use adult seat belts in rear seats. Children under three in the rear must use a restraint system appropriate to their size.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) on second-category roads, 62mph (100km/h) on first-category roads and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways is 37mph (60km/h).

Spain continues on the next page



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Spain continued

Special features: you must carry a set of replacement bulbs and a warning triangle. One warning triangle is compulsory for foreign-registered vehicles, but we recommend that you carry two, as in an accident or breakdown local officials can impose a fine if you only have one. A Bail Bond is no longer a legal requirement and many insurance companies have stopped issuing them.

Note You must wear a reflective jacket or waistcoat if you leave an immobilised vehicle on the carriageway at night or in poor visibility.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

SWEDEN (NORTHERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.02 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and prison.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car is 18, for motorcycles 17.

Note UK driving licences that do not have a photograph will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity (eg passport).

Fines: police can impose fines, but cannot collect them.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95, 96 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute petrol is available as 'Premium' 98 octane. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel is available, but availability of LPG is limited. Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Sweden before travelling.

Lights: you must use dipped headlights during the day.

Motorcycles: you must use dipped headlights during the day. Crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children of seven or under cannot travel as passengers unless using a suitable restraint system.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 43mph (70km/h) on all minor roads and those with a high traffic density; on all others (including motorways) 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) according to signs.

Special features: a warning triangle is compulsory. We recommend that you carry a first-aid kit and, for a mobile home or caravan, a fire extinguisher as well. Beware of game (moose, deer, etc, according to warning signs); this is a serious danger on many roads.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



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SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN (CENTRAL EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for blood-alcohol levels of 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine or prison; visiting drivers can be forbidden from driving in Switzerland for a minimum of two months.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car is 18, for motorcycles 50–125cc the minimum age is 16, for motorcycles over 125cc it is 18.

Fines: on-the-spot in certain cases.

Fuel: unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) is available. There is no leaded petrol, but a lead-substitute additive is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans. Diesel (Gasoil) is available but LPG availability is limited. Credit card acceptance is variable; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Switzerland and Liechtenstein before travelling.

Lights: We recommend dipped headlights during the day for all vehicles including motorcycles. Dipped headlights are compulsory in tunnels, even if well lit.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: third-party insurance is compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children between seven and 12 must use seat belts or a restraint system appropriate to their size when travelling as front- or rear-seat passengers; children under seven should travel in the rear seat.

Seat belts: front- and rear-seat occupants must wear seat belts where fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles with or without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h), semi-motorways and motorways 62mph (100km/h) and 74mph (120km/h) for cars and 49mph (80km/h) for cars with trailers or caravans. The minimum speed on motorways is 37mph (60km/h).

Note towing cars on a motorway is only permitted to the next exit at a maximum speed of 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: Warning triangles are compulsory. Hitch-hiking is prohibited on motorways and semi-motorways. The Swiss authorities levy an annual motorway tax; you must buy and display a sticker, known as a 'vignette', to use Swiss motorways and semi-motorways. The tax applies to all vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes maximum total weight, including motorcycles, trailers and caravans. You can buy stickers (cost CHF10) in the UK (call the Swiss Centre on freephone 00 800 100 20030 for information) or in Switzerland from customs offices at the frontier or service stations, garages and post offices. The fine for not having a sticker where required is CHF100 plus the cost of the sticker. Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes maximum total weight are taxed on all roads; coaches and caravans pay a fixed tax for periods of one day, ten days, one month or one year; lorries are taxed on weight and distance travelled.

* See also General Information at the end of this document



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TURKEY (SOUTH-EAST EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: for levels of alcohol in the blood of 0.05 per cent or more, penalties are severe.

Driving licence: the minimum age at which a UK licence holder can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: on-the-spot.

Fuel: leaded (96 octane) and unleaded (95 octane) are available. You are permitted to carry petrol in a can, provided it is a fireproof container. Diesel and LPG are available. Credit cards are accepted at many filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Turkey before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: crash helmets are compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Children under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: standard legal limits (varied by signs) for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and for cars and 43mph (70km/h) for motorcycles; motorways 74mph (120km/h) for cars and 49mph (80km/h) for motorcycles. Minimum speed on motorways is 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: you must carry a fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and two warning triangles.

*See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

UKRAINE (EASTERN EUROPE)

Drinking and driving: strictly forbidden. No alcohol is allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: holders of any type of UK driving licence must carry an International Driving Permit (IDP). The minimum age at which a visitor can drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle is 18.

Fines: no on-the-spot fines (any fines are imposed by a court).

Fuel: leaded (76 and 92 octane) and unleaded (95 and 98 octane) petrol is available. You are permitted to carry petrol in cans (duty is payable). Diesel (Solyarka) is available, but LPG is not. Credit cards are accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer to be sure you can use your card in Ukraine before travelling.

Lights: you should use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: drivers and passengers must wear crash helmets. Children under 12 and less than 1.45 metres are not permitted as passengers.

Motor insurance: Green Cards are compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: children under 12 and less than 1.45 metres cannot travel as front-seat passengers.

Seat belts: front-seat occupants must wear seat belts where they are fitted.

Speed limits: keep strictly to the signed speed limits. Standard legal limits (varied by signs), for private vehicles without trailers: built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h).

Note visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: a road tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document we recommend that you carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles if you will visit any Russian-speaking areas. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle are all compulsory. We also recommend that you carry an assortment of vehicle spares – fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. You need to plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

* See also General Information at the end of this document.



AA TOURING TIPS 2004 *

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR MOTORING ABROAD

REMEMBER to carry your **original documents** with you; these include your valid full driving licence (together with paper counterpart if you have a photocard licence), International Driving Permit (where necessary), passport and motor insurance certificate and vehicle registration document or certificate. Check to see if you need a visa for certain countries, especially if you hold a UK passport not issued in the UK or the passport of any other nationality. If you are travelling in a vehicle other than a car or motorcycle, or you are taking a boat, make sure you have any additional documentation that you may need. If the vehicle you are driving is borrowed, hired or leased, contact the AA for guidance. **You may be asked to produce your documents at any time, so to avoid a police fine or confiscation of your vehicle, be sure that they are in order and readily available for inspection.**

REMEMBER that personal AA members visiting Europe can get an ARC Europe 'Show Your Card' providing savings and discounts – visit the AA web site at www.theAA.com/services/savings_home.html or call 08705 500600 for information.

REMEMBER not to overload your car. This can be unsafe, and can incur fines and possibly invalidate your insurance.

REMEMBER that urgently needed **medical treatment** is available by most visitors at reduced cost from the health care of countries with whom the UK has health care arrangements. Details are in the Department of Health booklet 'Health Advice for Travellers', available from any main post office. But don't rely exclusively on these arrangements as this cover is not always comprehensive, and the cost of bringing a person back to the UK in the event of illness or death is never covered. Make sure you have adequate personal travel insurance.

REMEMBER, when driving abroad that **headlights** of right-hand drive vehicles should be adjusted for driving on the right. For older vehicles use adhesive masks on the headlamp glass. If you have a newer vehicles with high intensity (HID), xenon or many halogen headlamps, check with a dealer for your make of vehicle. An adjustment is not required for two-wheeled vehicles, as the beam pattern is more symmetrical.

REMEMBER not to tempt **car thieves** – never leave handbags and other attractive items in obvious view even when you are in the car, and never leave belongings in an unattended parked car overnight. For warnings about personal safety and car crime in the countries you intend visiting, contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their web site at www.fco.gov.uk

REMEMBER to take a spare pair of **spectacles** if you wear them – this is especially important if you are the sole driver.

General Information continues on the next page



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General Information continued

REMEMBER – In both Italy and Spain you must wear a reflective jacket or waistcoat if you leave an immobilised vehicle on the carriageway at night or in poor visibility. We recommend that you carry two jackets inside your car – one for the driver, and another for a passenger who may need to assist in an emergency repair. The jacket must conform to EU Standard BS EN 471:1994 Class 1 or 2. These are available from AA shops at Dover and Folkestone or motor accessory shops, or by mail order from Summit Accessories, telephone 01295 220 050.

REMEMBER – never fit a rearward facing **child restraint** in a seat with a front airbag.

REMEMBER wheel chains for any winter motoring – they are compulsory in some countries even when using winter tyres.

REMEMBER to contact your **motor insurer** or **broker** for advice at least a month before taking a vehicle overseas. You must ensure that you are adequately covered to your and their satisfaction, and you must have the necessary documents to prove it.

REMEMBER to **service** your car before departure so that faults can be repaired.

REMEMBER to check your **tyres** carefully – including the spare. Most countries require a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm over the central three-quarters of the tyre around the whole circumference. However, we strongly advise against using tyres with 2mm or less of tread, and ideally change any tyres worn down to 3mm before you go. Tyres wear out quickly when down to 3mm and wet road grip is markedly reduced.

REMEMBER to make sure that you have adequate breakdown assistance cover. Consider buying **AA European Breakdown Cover**, available for many European countries; call 0800 444 500 or visit the AA web site at www.theAA.com.

REMEMBER if your vehicle is not equipped with a **rear-view mirror** on the left external side we recommend that you fit one to allow for driving on the right.

REMEMBER to display a **GB sticker** – it is compulsory, and failure to comply could result in an on-the-spot fine. Registration plates displaying the GB Euro-symbol (Euro-plates) became a legal option in 2001, but must comply with the new British Standard (BS AU 145d). These plates make display of a conventional sticker unnecessary when circulating within the EU. The Euro-plate is only legally recognised in the EU; it is still a requirement to display a GB sticker when travelling outside the EU.

REMEMBER to **drive on the right** (except Cyprus, Malta and the Republic of Ireland) and that traffic approaching from the right usually has priority.

General Information continues on the next page



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General Information continued

REMEMBER that the use of **hand-held mobile phones** while driving is prohibited in many countries.

REMEMBER that the use or even possession of **devices to detect police radar speed traps** are banned in most European countries. The police will not only confiscate the equipment and fine you, they can also impose a driving ban. In extreme cases confiscation of the vehicle and even imprisonment can result.

REMEMBER that only **cats and dogs** are included in the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS). For more information contact the PETS HELPLINE on 0870 2411710 or visit the PETS web site at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine/pets/index.htm>