

Bulgaria (South East Europe)

Touring Tips



*For the
road ahead*

The following is additional to our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Driving licence

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle.
- You must have an [International Driving Permit](#) (IDP) if you don't have a Photocard licence.

Motor insurance

- You must have a minimum of third party insurance.
- Green Cards are recognised.

Fuel

- Leaded petrol is not available.
- Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG are available.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but local stations in small towns may not accept international cards. You should check with your card issuer for usage in Bulgaria before travel.
- You may import up to 10 litres of spare fuel in a can.

Speed limits

(Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers)

- Built-up areas 31mph (50km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h)
- Motorways 80mph (130km/h)

The maximum speed limit with snow chains is 31mph (50km/h).

Seat belts

Front and rear seat occupants must wear seat belts and fines are imposed for not doing so.

Passengers/children in cars

- Children under the age of 3 may not be carried unless using an appropriate child restraint. If seated in the front seat, the airbag must be deactivated.
- Children aged 3 or over and less than 1.5m tall must be seated with an appropriate restraint suitable to their size, they must be seated in the rear.

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Lights

You must use dipped headlights or daytime running lights during daylight hours.

Motorcycles

- Riders must wear a crash helmet
- You must use your dipped headlight at all times.

Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 49 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.
- Offenders will be prosecuted and receive a fine and driving ban.
- The police carry out random breath tests. If you test positive you will have to undergo a blood test carried out by a hospital doctor.
- The police can test for the use of drugs at the roadside.

Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be imposed. You will be given an official receipt.
- If you park illegally your vehicle could be clamped.
- If your vehicle is causing an obstruction, it will be towed away.

It's compulsory to carry the following in Bulgaria

- **Fire extinguisher** (not for two-wheeled vehicles)
- **First-aid kit**
- **Warning triangle** (not for two-wheeled vehicles)
- **Reflective jackets** – must be worn by anyone who gets out of your vehicle on the road/carriageway, day or night in the event of a breakdown or emergency on a motorway. This also applies to motorcyclists.
- **Snow chains** – must be carried from 1 November until 1 March and used when the relevant road sign is displayed.

Other rules/requirements Bulgaria

In wintry conditions, winter tyres are compulsory for vehicles registered in Bulgaria and strongly recommended for visitors.

You must not use spiked tyres.

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You must not use your horn in built-up areas between 10pm and 6am (9am on public holidays) or between 12noon and 4pm.

E-Vignettes

From 1 January 2019, digital E-Vignettes replaced paper ones.

E-Vignettes can be bought at the border check points from digital terminals using credit/ debit cards only, but it is strongly advised that drivers [buy E-Vignettes online](#) prior to arriving in Bulgaria.

- A receipt will be sent automatically to the e-mail address you provide and it's important to keep (or print) the receipt and/or keep a copy on your smart phone.
- Unlike the old paper Vignettes, the new digital E-Vignettes are not being sold at petrol stations across the country.

If you drive a luxury or 4 x 4 vehicle you are advised to use guarded car parks.

If you have a Sat Nav that can show fixed speed camera locations, you must have the function deactivated. Area's where static or mobile speed cameras operate will be marked. If a driver is pulled over for speeding by a mobile unit and there was not a sign present before the camera they are not obliged to pay the fine.



It's prohibited to use a radar detector.

You must only park on the right in a one-way street.

January 2019