



# European environmental zones

Hundreds of European cities have vehicle entry regulations. Entry can depend on vehicle emission, payment, vehicle types and many others. To avoid costly fines and delays when travelling abroad with your vehicle, read our guide for further information re: the official badges required to drive in specific cities across Europe.

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## Italy

### Emission rules

Most major towns and cities in Italy have low emission zones, especially in the north. There are restrictions on where you can drive in Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence, Bologna and many more cities.

In most cases, you can't drive into cities during the day on weekdays, although in some, cars are barred on Sundays too. Penalties for entering at a restricted time range from €70 (about £60) to a very steep €450 – circa £400.

For the vast majority of zones, permits to enter them when restrictions are in place aren't available to visitors, though some cities do allow you to enter if you're staying at a hotel within a low emission zone. Information in English is difficult to come by, so check with your hotel before travelling if that's the case and your Italian is limited.

The exception is Milan, where a congestion charge is payable, much like in London, if you want to enter the historical centre, otherwise known as area C.

## Netherlands

### Emission rules

Rotterdam and Utrecht have LEZs. But you don't need to order an emissions sticker in advance – all that matters is the date of your car's first registration, which you can find on your vehicle registration certificate (which you may know as your logbook or V5C).

- **Rotterdam:** From January 2022, the LEZ only applies to lorries with an emission class of 5 or lower.
- **Arnhem and Utrecht:** Have a diesel car? You can enter the LEZ if it was first registered after 1 January 2006. You risk being fined €100 if you enter with an older diesel car. There aren't currently any entry requirements for petrol cars.

## Portugal

### Emission rules

Lisbon is the only city in Portugal to have a LEZ – and it's actually two zones. You can drive in zone 1 provided your car, whether petrol or diesel, complies with Euro 2 emission standards, which generally means cars manufactured since January 1997. You can drive in zone 2 as long as your (petrol or diesel) car meets Euro 1 emission standards – those manufactured since January 1992.

There's not a lot of information about the zones available in English, but this [Lisbon city council leaflet](#) gives you an idea of where they are.



## Spain

### Emission rules

Madrid and Barcelona have permanent LEZs.

- Madrid: Vehicles which meet the emission standards can freely enter the LEZ, whereas those which qualify as 'eco' can enter and park for up to two hours. Vehicles categorised as 'C' or 'B' can only enter to park in a private garage, or a public or private parking space.

Foreigners are not required to display a (free) emissions sticker – it is voluntary. However, they are required to prove the environmental standards of their vehicle by taking the vehicle registration certificate to the Madrid city council. The penalty for entering the LEZ with a vehicle that doesn't meet the emission standards, or staying longer than permitted is €200.

More information can be found on the [Madrid city council website](#).

- Barcelona: You need to register with the [Barcelona Metropolitan Area](#) before your arrival in the city. It usually costs £ for a day pass. The fine is €200.

Many other cities in Spain have temporary LEZ.



## Switzerland

### Emission rules

The only city in Switzerland that has a LEZ is Geneva. Drivers are required to display a Stick'AIR vignette only when pollution levels reach or forecast to reach a high level. The sticker can be purchased from a petrol station or garage in the area for 5 CHF (about £4.50). The fine for not displaying a sticker is 500 CHF.

While we endeavour to provide relevant and useful information, we cannot guarantee its validity or completeness due to the potential for changes and updates beyond our control. Please check the various jurisdictions websites for any updates.