



# Drink driving limits across Europe

Drinking and driving is never a good idea but it becomes especially bad when you go abroad where some countries have zero tolerance. Read our guide for more information on the legal blood alcohol limit for driving in countries across Europe, and the potential consequences if caught with levels exceeding the limit.

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When driving abroad, not only are you unfamiliar with the roads and driving customs, but driving on the other side of the road with different speed limits requires complete concentration.

These factors all add up. But there's also one more important factor to take into consideration – the legal blood alcohol limit for driving in individual countries across Europe.

Below are the maximum drink driving limits across Europe for drivers as well as the special limits for commercial and novice drivers where applicable (shown in grams per litre).



### BAC Limits Across Europe (g/l)

Country	Standard Drivers	Commercial Drivers	Novice Drivers
 Austria	0.5	0.1	0.1
 Belgium	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Bulgaria	0.5	0.5	0.5
 Croatia	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Cyprus	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Czech Republic	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Denmark	0.5	0.5	0.5
 Denmark	0.2	0.2	0.2
 Finland	0.5	0.5	0.5
 France	0.5	0.2 (bus drivers)	0.2
 Germany	0.5 (0.0**)	0.0	0.0
 Greece	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Hungary	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Ireland	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Italy	0.5	0.0	0.0

## Things to consider:
















Please be aware that there may be variances, and some countries may apply stricter rules for professional and public service drivers, which may not always be captured in this framework. Therefore, please ensure you double-check the drinking and driving regulations of the country you are travelling to beforehand, on their relevant Government portal. For example, the United Kingdom has different limits for Scotland compared to England, Wales, and Northern Ireland - England, Wales, and Northern Ireland = 0.8 g/l; Scotland = 0.5 g/l.

In many parts of Europe, the police do not need 'probable cause' to stop your vehicle and breathalyse you. They are permitted to make random stops and checks, which means you could easily find yourself stopped unexpectedly.

Do not expect leniency if convicted of drink-driving abroad. The penalties differ greatly from country to country, but at the very least, you're going to receive a large fine. You can, for example, receive a six-month sentence in the UK and Ireland, and anywhere from one day to three years in Luxembourg. Drink-driving convictions in France can bring jail terms of two months to two years, and in Finland up to six months. Additionally, be aware that France may be lowering their BAC limit for novice drivers to 0.2 g/l, effective from July 1, 2025. However, in all cases your driving licence will be suspended, or you'll be banned from driving in the country.

Of course, the best advice would be to simply avoid drinking and driving all together. However, please note that if you enjoy a good night out, this could mean allowing up to 12 hours between your last drink and taking the car out the next day. It is also important to be aware that Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, and Czech Republic maintain a zero-tolerance policy for all drivers, including commercial and novice drivers.

## BAC Limits Across Europe (g/l)

Country	Standard Drivers	Commercial Drivers	Novice Drivers
 Latvia	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Lithuania	0.4	0.0	0.0
 Luxembourg	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Malta	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Netherlands	0.2	0.2	0.2
 Norway	0.2	0.2	0.2
 Poland	0.2	0.2	0.2
 Portugal	0.5	0.2	0.2
 Romania	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Slovakia	0.0	0.0	0.0
 Slovenia	0.5	0.0	0.0
 Spain	0.5	0.3	0.3
 Sweden	0.2	0.2	0.2
 Switzerland	0.5	0.1	0.1
 United Kingdom	0.8 (0.5 <sup>*2</sup> )	0.2	0.2