



# Driving in Europe

Read our guide to find out what documents you need when driving in Europe.

**Disclaimer:**

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# Driving in Europe

The UK is no longer a member of the European Union, meaning that different driving rules apply. Please note, you may be breaking the law if you travel without the required documents, and there could be serious implications including a fine, having your vehicle seized or even prosecution.

We strongly recommend you prepare for your journey in advance, as it may take longer than usual if you need to update or request any of the documents below:

## Driving licences and international driving permits

To drive in Europe, you need to carry your UK driving licence with you.

You do not need an International Driving Permit (IDP) to visit and drive in the EU, Switzerland, Iceland or Liechtenstein. However, if you have a paper driving licence or your licence was issued in Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey or the Isle of Man, you might need an IDP to drive in some EU countries and Norway. To check if you need an IDP, [click here](#).

In case you need an IDP, you can obtain it from certain shops that have a PayPoint. An IDP costs £5.50 and drivers must be a resident of Great Britain or Northern Ireland, have a full UK driving licence and be 18 or over.

## Insurance for your vehicle, caravan or trailer

All UK vehicle insurance provides the minimum third-party cover to drive in the EU, including Ireland, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland. You no longer need to carry a Green Card when you drive in the countries listed above, however, you still need valid vehicle insurance.

A Green Card, also known as the International Motor Insurance Card, is a document issued by insurance providers in the UK, guaranteeing that the motorist has the necessary third-party motor insurance cover for travel in the country being travelled to.

To find out more details about insurance, [click here](#).

## Vehicle registration documents

If you're going to Europe with your vehicle for less than 12 months, you can either bring your vehicle log book (V5C) or VE103 (proof that you can use the hired/leased vehicle abroad). Please note, the address on your V5C must be up to date.

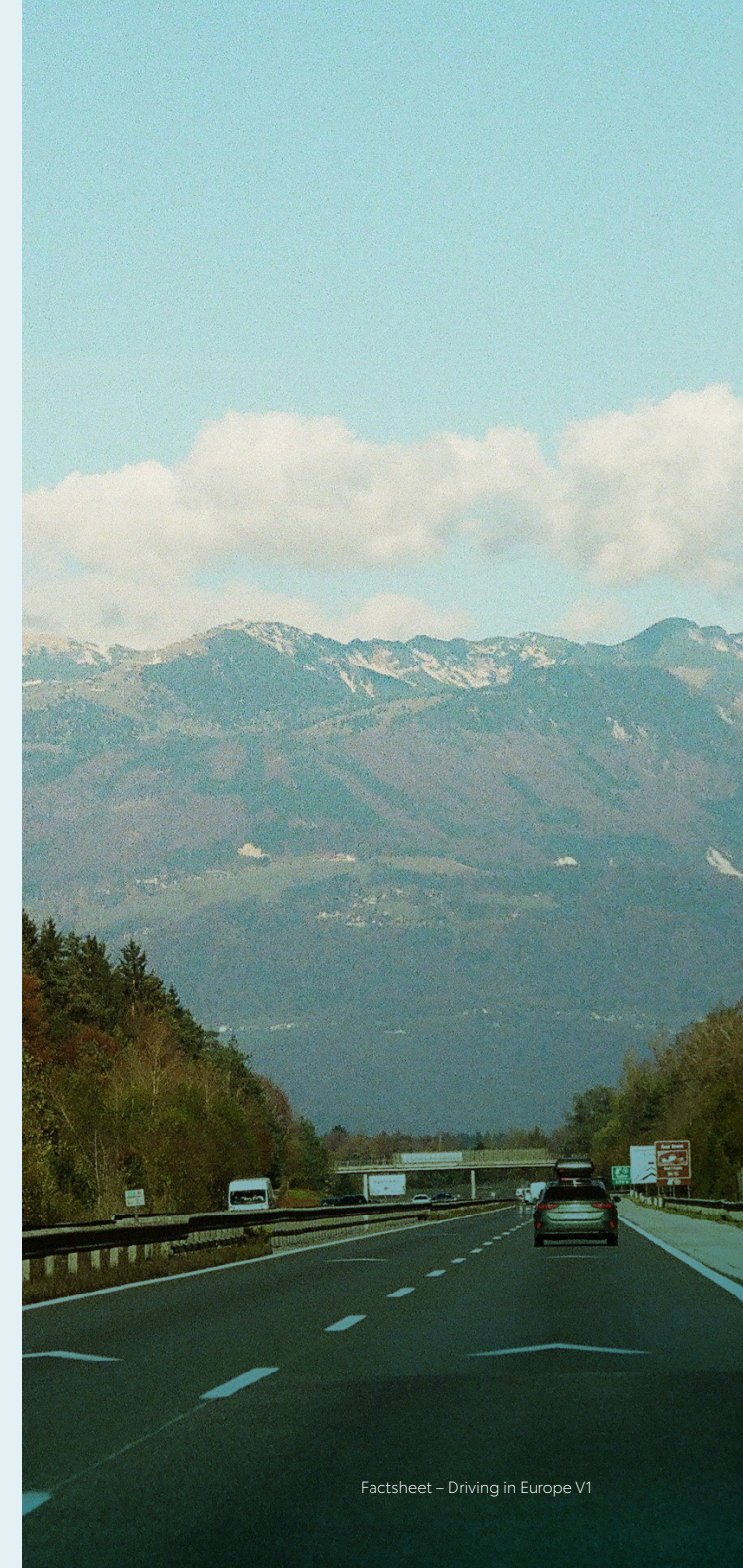
If you don't have your original V5C, you can request a duplicate [online](#), only if there is nothing to be changed on the log book. If you need to update your information on your log book before travelling to Europe, [click here](#) for more details.

## UK stickers and numberplates

If you're travelling in Spain, Malta or Cyprus you must display a UK sticker on the rear of your vehicle. If you're travelling in any other European country, you need a UK sticker if your numberplate has:

- A Euro symbol
- A national flag of England, Scotland or Wales
- Numbers and letters only

If your numberplate has the UK identifier on its own or with the union flag, you don't need a GB sticker. You also don't need a sticker to drive in Ireland.



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## What to do if you're involved in a road accident in Europe

**Safety first:** If you get involved in a road traffic accident, make sure you stop your vehicle as soon as possible at a safe location and check yourself and other passengers for injuries. If anyone is hurt, call an ambulance (if you are in an EU country, call 112 to contact the emergency services).

**Call the police:** If no one is injured, call the police first. Make notes of everything that's happened, take pictures, obtain the full details of the other driver and the contact details of any witnesses. You should get a copy of the police report or a reference number.

If you drive in Europe, you may be provided with a European Accident Statement (EAS). It is usually issued by your insurer and should be completed by the drivers involved in the accident to record the details while they are still fresh in mind. Both you and the other driver should receive a copy. However, do not sign the document if you disagree with how the accident is described.

**Inform your insurer:** You should get in touch with your insurance provider as soon as possible to let them know about the accident and provide the necessary details. What happens next depends on your insurance cover, e.g. the level of insurance cover you have, or whether your vehicle is a rental.

To keep up-to-date with the latest information on driving in Europe, please refer to the Government website.

## Equipment to carry in your vehicle when driving in Europe

In the UK, as of 1st August 2023, you are not legally required to carry specific equipment in your vehicle. However, many European countries do have such requirements — for example, carrying a first aid kit — though the exact items vary by country. For this reason, we recommend keeping the following items in your vehicle when travelling in Europe: reflective jackets (one for each passenger), a warning triangle, a first aid kit, and headlamp beam deflectors. Depending on your vehicle, you may need beam deflector stickers or have to adjust the headlights manually.

At KINTO, we've recently launched an [Online Foreign Travel Portal](#) to enable our customers to request travel documentation online 24/7 and help minimise waiting times as we approach the summer months. To find out more details about the portal, [click here](#).

