



Driving in Europe – Update

Read our guide to find out what documents you need to prepare for your journey

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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 to 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 over the counter at the Post Office](#). 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 provide the minimum third-party cover to drive in the EU (including Ireland), Andorra, Bosna 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 a valid vehicle insurance.

A Green Card, also known as the International Motor Insurance Card, is a document that is 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](#).

Driving in Europe

Vehicle registration documents

If you are going to Europe with your vehicle for less than 12 months, you can either bring your vehicle log book (V5C) or VE103 (a 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 number plates

If you are travelling in Spain, Malta or Cyprus you must display a GB sticker on the rear of your vehicle. If you are travelling in any other European country, you need a GB sticker if your number plate has:

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

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

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

Safety first – If you get involve 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 has happened and take pictures, obtain the full details of the other driver as well as the contact details of any witnesses.

You should get a copy of the police report or a reference number.

Driving in Europe

*If you drive in Europe, you may be provided with an European Accident Statement (EAS). It is usually given by your insurer and is to be filled in by the drivers involved in the accident – to outline the details which are still fresh in mind. You and the other driver should receive a copy, but don't sign the document if you disagree with the statements used to describe the accident.

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 would happen next depends on your insurance cover e.g. the level of insurance cover you have, or whether your vehicle is rental.

Equipment to carry in your vehicle when driving in Europe

In the UK, as of 1st August 2023, there is not any equipment that you're required by law to carry in your vehicle, however, in many European countries there are, such as first aid kit (the required equipment varies between countries). For this reason, we recommend that you carry in your vehicle the following equipment when you travel in Europe – reflective jackets (one for each passenger), warning triangle, first aid kit and headlamp beam deflectors (depending on your vehicle you may need deflector stickers or you have to adjust the beam 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.

Or to find out more details about the portal, click [here](#).