



SPAIN (South West Europe)

This information should be read in conjunction with “General advice for motoring in Europe”

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines and withdrawal of visitor's driving licence. Drivers with less than 2 years experience 0.03%.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (over 75cc) 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Spain. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. Illegally parked vehicles can be towed away. Wheel clamps are also in use.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in a can permitted. Diesel (Gasoleo ‘A’ or Gas-oil) available NOTE Gasoleo ‘B’ is heating oil only. LPG is available under the name of “Autogas”, but there are only a few sales outlets at present. For locations please see map on website at www.repsolypf.com Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Spain before travel.

Lights: The use of full headlights in built-up areas is prohibited; use sidelights or dipped headlights depending on how well lit the roads are. Dipped headlights must be used in tunnels.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for riders of motorcycles 125cc and over, this includes trikes and quads unless they are equipped with seat belts.

Motor Insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/Children in cars: Children up to the age of 12 and measuring less than 135 cm travelling on the front seat of a car must be seated in a child restraint system adapted to their size and weight. Children measuring more than 135 cm may use an adult seat belt. Children under 135 cm travelling on the rear seat must also be placed in a child restraint system adapted to their size and weight, except when travelling in a taxi in an urban area.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h) on 2nd category roads, 62 mph (100 km/h) on 1st category roads and 74 mph (120 km/h) on motorways. On motorways and dual carriage ways in built up areas 49 mph (80km/h). Minimum speed on motorways and dual carriageways: 37 mph (60 km/h). Some residential zones are 13 mph (20kph)



Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicles with a set of replacement bulbs, the tools to fit them and a warning triangle (one warning triangle compulsory for foreign registered vehicles; two recommended as, in an accident / breakdown situation, local officials may impose fine if only one produced). A Bail Bond is no longer a legal requirement and many insurance companies have stopped issuing them. A driver who wears glasses should carry a spare pair with them. Apparatus with a screen which can distract a driver (such as television, video, DVD equipment) are prohibited. This excludes GPS systems. The use of radar detectors is prohibited. In urban areas it is prohibited to sound the horn at any time, except in an emergency. Lights may be flashed in place of using the horn. The use of snow chains are recommended in snow weather conditions.

It is not mandatory to carry a reflectorised jacket in the vehicle and Spanish police cannot fine a foreign motorist who does not carry one however, the wearing of reflectorised jacket / waistcoat compulsory if driver and / or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways and main or busy roads. Be aware that Car Hire Companies are not under legal obligation to supply them to persons hiring vehicles, so often don't.

In winter, spikes on spiked tyres must not exceed 2mm in length and must only be used on roads covered with snow or ice.

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