DRIVING REQUIREMENTS	Austria	Belgium	Croatia	Denmark	France	Germany	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland
Minimum age/UK licence holders (1)	17	18	18	17	18	18	17	18	18	18	17 (13)	18	18	18
IDP required – UK licence Holders	NO (2)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO (3)	NO	NO	NO (3)	NO (3)	NO (2)	NO
Original registration document	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Motor vehicle insurance (4)	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Motorway tax / Vignette	C & TOLLS	NO	TOLLS	TOLLS	TOLLS	NO	TOLLS	TOLLS	NO	TOLLS	TOLLS (18)	TOLLS	TOLLS	C & TOLLS
GB sticker (5)	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Warning triangle	C (6)	C (6)	C (6/8)	C	C (6)	R (7&16)	NO	C (6)	R (9&6)	C (6)	R (9&16)	C (8&6)	R	C (6&8)
Reflective jacket/waistcoat	C (6/19)	C (10)	C (10)	R	C (6/10)	R (16)	NO	C (10&6)	NO	R (10)	R (10)	C (10)	R (16)	NO
First aid kit	C	R (16)	C (6)	R	NO	R (16)	NO	NO	NO	R	NO	NO	R	NO
Fire extinguisher (6)	NO	R (16)	NO	R	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	R	NO	NO	R	NO
Headlamp adjustment (11)	C	C	C	C	C	C	NO	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
On the spot fines	YES	YES	YES (12)	YES	YES	YES	YES (12)	YES (12)	YES	YES	YES (12)	YES	YES (12)	YES
Radar dectectors (17)	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Daytime headlights/passing Lights - cars	NO (15)	NO (15)	C (15)	C	R (15)	R (15)	NO (15)	C (14)	R	C	NO (15)	NO	C	C
Daytime headlights/passing Lights - Motorcycles	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	R	C	C	C	C	C
Breathalyser	NO	NO	NO	NO	C (20)	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO

C = COMPULSORY
R = Recommended by AA/respective Country
F = Forbidden

Read in conjunction with the Touring Tips for the relevant country.

The above chart is not an exhaustive list, further information can be found on the touring tips for each country and the Winter Requirement page

Items highlighted above can be purchased from the AA Travel Shop - the one stop shop for all your motoring accessories.

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NOTES

(1) Minimum age at which a visitor may drive a car.

(2) UK driving licences which do not incorporate photograph are recognised, but drivers must be able to produce photographic proof of identity (e.g. passport).

(3) All valid UK licences should be accepted. However, the acceptance of the older 'all green' style UK licences cannot be guaranteed. Drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an IDP.

(4) Original certificate should be carried. Before taking a vehicle abroad contact your motor insurer or broker to notify them of your intentions, and ask their advice. It is important to know what level of cover you will have and what documents you need to prove it.

(5) GB Stickers are compulsory within the EU unless your UK registration plates display the GB Euro-symbol (Europlates) which became a legal option from 21 March 2001. The Euro plate must comply with the new British Standard (BS AU 145d). The Euro plate is only legally recognised in the EU; it is still a requirement to display a GB sticker when travelling outside the EU.

(6) Not required for two-wheeled vehicles.

(7) Although not compulsory for visiting motorists to carry a warning triangle, its use is compulsory in an accident/breakdown situation.

(8) **Spain**: One warning triangle compulsory for non-Spanish registered vehicles; two for Spanish registered vehicles. Note: Drivers of non-Spanish registered vehicles should consider carrying two triangles as, regardless of regulations, local officials may impose an on-the-spot fine if only one is available.
Croatia: Two triangles compulsory for vehicles towing a trailer. **Switzerland:** Warning triangle must be kept within easy reach (not in the boot).

(9) The use of hazard warning lights or a warning triangle is compulsory in an accident/breakdown situation. However, a warning triangle should always be carried as hazard-warning lights have no effect at bends or rises in the road, or may become damaged or inoperative.

(10) Wearing, compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle immobilised on carriageway, in **Italy** at night or in poor visibility, in **Spain** on all motorways and busy roads, it must be kept within the vehicle. In **Croatia** the wearing is compulsory whenever you have to get out of the vehicle at the roadside in an emergency. In **Portugal** and **Norway** the actual law applies to residents; however, regardless of the regulations local officials may impose an on-the-spot fine. In **Belgium** the wearing of the reflective jacket only applies to the driver, it must be worn should you be stranded on a Belgian motorway or on a major road or should you stop at a place where parking is not allowed. In **France** drivers must have one warning triangle and one reflective jacket in their vehicle. Motorcycle helmets must have retroreflective material fitted (see touring tip for further information). From January 2016 it will be compulsory for all motorcyclists (two or three wheels) to wear a reflective jacket in the event of an emergency. In **Austria** the regulation applies only to the driver.

(11) The legal requirement is to 'not dazzle oncoming drivers' rather than specifically to adjust/convert the headlamp beam pattern. Without adjustment the dipped beam will dazzle oncoming drivers and this could result in a fine. Headlamp beam converter kits are widely available but may not be suitable for all types of headlights. The AA shop sell beam converters suitable for all vehicles and fitting diagrams are included for the latest 'clear glass', 'projector and xenon' headlamps inside the packaging. In some countries it is compulsory to use dipped headlights at all times when driving during the day. Note: this adjustment is not required for two wheeled vehicles as the beam pattern is more symmetrical but check that any extra loading has not affected the beam height. On some cars it is inadvisable or impossible for anyone other than a qualified technician to change a headlamp bulb unit e.g. high intensity discharge (HID) headlamps and carrying spares is not an option. However, it is recommended that spare bulbs are carried for any lights that may be easily and/or safely replaced by the owner/driver. Spare bulbs are compulsory for Croatia.

(12) **Sweden**: Police do not usually collect fines, however should a fine be paid on the spot, a receipt must be obtained. **Italy**: Police will collect a quarter of the maximum fine amount from drivers of foreign registered vehicles. **Ireland**: Police are not authorised to actually collect fines, they will issue a notice which must be paid within 28 days. **Croatia:** The fine does not have to be paid on the spot; however it does need to be paid within 8 days. **Portugal:** Some traffic police carry ATMs

(13) **Portugal**: Visiting drivers of 17 years of age may encounter problems even though they hold a valid driving licence in the UK.

(14) Outside built up areas, during snow or rain causing poor visibility.

(15) Compulsory during daylight hours if the visibility is poor. For **France** the use of dipped headlights are recommended throughout the year, for **Croatia** during daylight hours from the last Sunday in October to the last Sunday in March.

(16) Recommended as their carriage is compulsory for vehicles registered in that country.

(17) Many countries now stipulate that GPS based navigation systems which have maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera PoI (Point of interest)' function deactivated, please check individual touring tips. Dashboard cams are prohibited in Austria and Portugal

(18) In order to use many Motorways in Portugal, a temporary electronic toll device (DEM) or the pre-payment of tolls is required.

(19) Recommended for two wheeled vehicles

(20) All drivers should possess a breathalyser. However, as of the 25th January 2013 a driver can not be penalised for not carrying one. The fine has been postponed indefinitely. The breathalyser has to be a certified by the French authorities, showing an 'NF' number. The official text states that one unused breathalyser should be produced. We recommend that two single-use breathalysers are carried, so if one is used or damaged you will still have a replacement to produce.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE COUNTRY BY COUNTRY TOURING TIP

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