



European Consumer Centres Network

TOURISM IN SPAIN

This brochure will provide you with information on driving in Spain. You will find practical advice and important legal information covering the different topics. We have tried to include all the relevant information concerning travel to Spain and your stay in Spain; however the information provided is not fully detailed on all points and should be viewed as a guide not as a verbatim statement of the law.

Driving in Spain

Papers

- ◆ The minimum age for driving in Spain is 18 years old.
- ◆ It's compulsory to carry your driving licence, car registration papers and insurance documents. EU driving
- ◆ Licences or International Driving Licences are accepted for driving in Spain.

Children

- ◆ Children under 12 years old must be seated using an approved child seat.

- ◆ Every children or person below 135 cm should use an approved safety belt.
- ◆ Children and persons between 135 cm and 150 cm can use an approved safety belt or the adult safety belt.

Speed limits

- ◆ On the Spanish roads generally your speed is limited to:
 - 50 km/h in built-up areas
 - 90 km/h outside built-up areas with a verge of no more than 1'50m
 - 100km/h outside built-up areas with a verge of more than 1'50m
 - 120 km/h on highways and dual carriageways
- ◆ In Spain, there are fixed radar traffic detectors all over the country which photograph vehicles not complying with the speed limits. The positions of these radar controls are indicated. A list of their locations is available on the site of the Dirección General de Tráfico (DGT): <http://www.dgt.es/trafico/radares/radares.htm>
- ◆ If you exceed the speed limit, you may be fined from 100 € to 520€ and 6 points endorsed to your driving license. Be aware also that, depending on the speed, your licence as well as your vehicle can be confiscated (for speeds equal to, or exceeding in more than 50% the road limits when is more than 30km/h).
- ◆ If you wish to object to a fine: contact the Police court located in the area of the Police which reported the infringement.

Traffic rules

- ◆ Priority to traffic coming from the right applies, unless there is a road marking indicating that you have priority.

Safety

- ◆ Safety belts are compulsory for all the occupants of the vehicle that is to say for both front- and rear-seat passengers. There must be one safety belt per passenger. In the event of a police check, there will be a fine from 91 to 150€ for anyone not wearing a safety belt.
- ◆ Mobile telephones may not be used while driving, unless you are using a "hands free" system. In the case of a police check, you may be fined up to 91 € and two points on your licence for an infringement.

Alcohol and drugs

- ◆ The police have the power to make breath and drug tests to any drivers during a police control, after an accident or if the driver presents traces of having consume them.
- ◆ The legal blood alcohol limit is 50 g/l of blood or 25mg/l in exhaled air. For new drivers (less than 2 years of driving license) the limit is 30g/l or 15mg/l
- ◆ Guilty drivers are hardly punished. Even can derivate into a penal sanction.
- ◆ Next table is just a guide:

70 kgs man	50 g/l or 25mg/l	30g/l or 15mg/l
Beer / Wine	60 cl	33 cl
Liquors	2 drinks	1 drink

- ◆ The Police also have the power to search for drugs. The smallest trace of illegal drugs can result in punishment.

Traffic accident

- ◆ If you are involved in an accident in Spain, your insurance should cover any injury or damage that you may cause to another party and may include cover of any legal costs that may be incurred. Please check details with your insurer before travelling to Spain.
- ◆ Your agent should provide you with a green card which must be displayed in the car windscreen. This serves as proof of valid liability insurance and is accepted throughout Europe in countries which are signatories of the Green Card System. It is not mandatory to have a Green Card when travelling within the EU if you bring your certificate of insurance. However, a Green Card can serve as easily recognisable proof of third party insurance.
- ◆ The insurance agent will also provide an accident report sheet.
- ◆ In the event of an accident with no serious injuries, and if both drivers agree on the facts, there is no obligation to contact the police, however all parties must still complete the accident report in order to benefit from insurance.
- ◆ The report has to be filled out at the scene of the accident; it is purely a statement of facts not an establishment of blame. But do not sign any paperwork if you do not understand it, it can be used as evidence. Information required includes: place of accident, names of witnesses, names of drivers with driver licence details, and details of the insurers. If more than two cars are involved, a separate report form should be completed with each party. Try to be as precise as possible in the description of the accident.
- ◆ Both parties then sign the completed document. If a driver refuses to sign the form, make a note of the registration number and take the details of any witnesses or police officers.

- ◆ Once the form has been successfully filled in, you have five days to return it to your insurer. If neither driver has a report form available then the report can be done by letter.

- ◆ If it is a serious accident, and you need to be hospitalised, the authorities will deal with the paperwork on your behalf. If you are not hospitalised, but feel the consequences of a shock etc. get a medical certificate stating your injuries.

- ◆ In case of an accident in Spain, as a general rule, Spanish law will apply to determine responsibilities and compensation of undergone damages.

- ◆ If you are not responsible for the accident, the directive 2000 / 26 / EC of May 16, 2000 allows you to demand a compensation in your country of place of residence.

- ◆ Your insurer, or yourself, should contact the representative of the opposite insurance company in your country. Every European insurer indeed has to appoint a competent correspondent in the other member states. You should receive an offer of compensation in the three months of the demand. If you have difficulties to find the coordinates of this interlocutor, you should contact the body created for that purpose in your country.

- ◆ If the accident was caused by an uninsured or unidentifiable car, you are entitled under Community law to compensation from the motor vehicle guarantee fund of your country.

Sanctions

- ◆ Sanctions can be in 30% decreased if the payment is done in the next two days after the notification.

Toll Roads



- ◆ A highway which tolls are charged is indicated with the following sign (Autopista de peaje)

- ◆ When you enter into a toll highway you will take a ticket at the first toll station. The price is based on the distance travelled and category of the vehicle (car, camper, caravan, lorry ...etc). Automatic toll machines, as well as toll stations with personnel, take credit cards or coins and give change; and, if required, receipts.

Petrol/Fuel

- ◆ There are two kinds of petrol stations: self-service stations and petrol stations operated by personnel.

- ◆ Many petrol stations are open 24 hours per day, but not all of them offer this service, above all in non metropolitan areas.

- ◆ Major credit cards are accepted. Generally you can pay at a booth or to the petrol station personal.

ES	EN	FR
Sin Plomo	Unleaded gasoline	Sans plomb
95 / 98	95 or 98	95 ou 98
Gasoil	Diesel fuel	Gazoile

Car rental

- ◆ If you rent a vehicle, you should know that it is always the paper contract which you sign in the agency when picking up the car that prevails. This is especially true for prior bookings made via Internet. Therefore you should always verify that the final contract includes all the options which you prior selected on Internet. Do not hesitate to take time to read again the contract, to ask questions on the coverage of insurances signed etc.
- ◆ Have a close look at the car and report immediately any damage, bump etc. you discover.
- ◆ Another advice: ask for the opening hours of the agency, to be able to return the car in person. If you leave the vehicle on the parking of the company outside the opening hours, you can be held responsible for damages caused to the vehicle.

If you, as a foreign consumer, are feeling mistreated by Spanish professional, the European Consumer Centres (ECCs) will be pleased to help you to find an amicable settlement of the dispute. You can find further information and a complete list of all ECCs under: http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/redress/ecc_network/index_en.htm

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