

Driving in Belgium

What you need to know

In addition to the [General Driving Advice for Western Europe](#), the following laws apply when driving in Belgium:

Speed Limits

- Residential areas 12mph (20km/h)
- Built-up areas 31mph (50km/h)*
- Outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h)
- Outside built-up areas in the Flanders region 43mph (70km/h)
- Motorways and dual carriageways separated by a central reservation 74 mph (120 km/h)
- The minimum speed on motorways 43mph (70km/h)

*A limit of 18mph (30 km/h) may be indicated before entering a built-up area. This limit also applies in cyclestreets (Fietsstraat).

Motorcycles

- Riders must wear protective clothing, i.e. gloves, jacket with long sleeves, trousers with long legs, and boots protecting the ankles

Motorcycles cont...

- Children under three are not allowed on motorcycles
- Children under three are allowed in a sidecar if it has been equipped with an appropriate child seat
- Children between three and eight may be carried as passengers in a special seat, but only on motorcycles up to 125cc

It is compulsory to carry:

- Reflective jacket - the driver must wear a reflective safety jacket when they exit a vehicle following a breakdown, accident or if stopped where parking is not allowed
- Warning triangle - applies to vehicles with more than two wheels only

Children

- Children under 18 and less than 1.35 metres must use an appropriate child-restraint system in both the front and rear seats of a vehicle
- Unless travelling in a taxi, a child under three must use a child seat/restraint
- If you wish to use a rear-facing child seat on a front seat, the airbag must be deactivated

Drinking and driving

- The legal limit of alcohol is 49 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood
- On the spot penalties range from €150 and €12,000, and driving bans from three hours up to 15 days (depending on the level of alcohol found in blood)
- If prosecuted, you could be fined between €300 and €16,000 and your licence could be suspended from eight days up to five years (depending on the level of alcohol found in blood)

In addition:

- It is prohibited to use cruise control on congested motorways and some motorways during road works
- Any stationary vehicle must have its engine switched off, unless absolutely necessary
- When overtaking a cyclist or moped rider, there should be a distance of at least 1 metre between the vehicle and the cyclist/moped.