

Driving in Portugal

What you need to know

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

Speed Limits

- Some town centres 12mph (20km/h)
- Built-up areas 31mph (50km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 62mph (100km/h)
- Motorways 74mph (120km/h), minimum 31mph (50 km/h)
- If you have held your licence for less than 12 months, you must not exceed 55mph (90km/h)

Children

- Children under 12 years old and less than 1.35 metres tall must travel in the rear in an appropriate child restraint, unless the vehicle has only two seats, or is not fitted with seat belts
- If you wish to carry a child under three years old in the front passenger seat, they must use an appropriate child restraint and the airbag must be switched off if the child restraint is rear-facing

In addition:

- Vehicles registered in Portugal must carry a warning triangle
- It is forbidden to carry or use a radar detector
- It is forbidden to use a dashboard camera
- You must not use spiked tyres or winter tyres
- You must not use your horn in a built-up area when it is dark except in the case of immediate danger
- You must not carry a bicycle(s) at the rear of a car. You may carry bicycles on the roof of your car as long as the total height isn't more than 4 metres

Lights

- You must use dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility and in tunnels

Motorcycles

- You must not carry a child under seven years old

It is compulsory to carry:

- Photographic proof of identity (at all times)
- Reflective jacket - compulsory for residents and recommended for visitors. Reflective jackets should be worn if you or your passengers exit a broken down vehicle on the motorway and main or busy roads

Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 49 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood
- A lower limit of 19 milligrams applies to new drivers with less than three years' experience is rear-facing