

MOTORING HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

The items listed below are suggestions specifically for a motoring holiday and *in addition* to general items you may need to pack that can be found in the **What to Pack** checklist.

The lists below are intended as a general **guide only** but actual items should be packed according to specific needs, mode of travel, destination, climate, etc.

Please consult your GP or health centre regarding your medications, required immunizations, etc.

See separate travel categories/links for: **Backpacking Checklist, Camping Checklist, Summer Holiday Checklist, Winter Holiday Checklist.**

Take Packed

Documents:

- Car insurance
- Travel Insurance
- Vehicle Breakdown Cover
- Vehicle Registration document and MOT certificate (in case requested by police)
- Driving License (this needs to be the new photo version for motoring in Europe)
- International Driving License (if required)
- Emergency phone numbers (including your bank, British consulates, etc.)
- Passport/Visas

Equipment for vehicle:

- On-board navigation system (check you have correct disc & program it for country)
- First Aid kit and book
- Windscreen scraper and De-Icer (winter)
- Fire extinguisher (required by law in some countries)
- GB sticker (required by law in some countries)
- Headlamp patches (required by law in some countries)
- Jump leads
- Snow chains and snow shovel (winter)
- Mobile phone & charger (programmed with 'ICE' – in case of emergency number. Check with provider if the country/area is covered)
- Spare bulbs
- Maps
- Roof rack/storage box
- Tools
- Flashlight/radio and spare batteries
- Radio
- Tow rope
- Warning triangle (x 2 in some countries)
- Emergency food/water supplies
- Blanket or sleeping bag (pref. thermal)
- Waterproof clothing
- Elasticated luggage straps
- Sun shade for windscreen
- Vehicle maintenance/instruction manuals
- Disposable camera (to document the scene in the event of an accident)

- Spare fuel can (illegal in some countries and on ferries -unless empty- so check first.

Vehicle Maintenance:

- Check Anti-Freeze
- Check Battery
- Check Brakes
- Check Oil level
- Check Windscreen wash fluid (with antifreeze if needed)
- Check Tyres (including spare)
- Check you have needed equipment, jack, etc. to change wheel

Motoring Holiday Tips:

- Plan ahead! Make sure you have the necessary maps. Check websites or your automobile club for road conditions, hazards, weather, etc. before you leave.
- Have your vehicle thoroughly checked and serviced, including tyres and inflation.
- Make sure all your documents: passport, driver's license, etc. are valid and not out of date. Be aware that in some countries it is required for your passport to be valid for a period of time, such as six months after the date of your travel. It is advisable to check on requirements for the countries you are visiting. You can visit the on-line UK Passport Information site at www.ukpa.gov.uk or calling 0870 521 0410.
- Be prepared for possible delays at borders. Border crossing points do still exist in Europe with some manned and some unmanned.
- Carry enough cash to cover unexpected expenses such as toll road charges or on-the-spot fines.
- France has a lot of toll roads. Also be aware that tickets are often time-stamped and checked at the other end – so watch your speed or you may find yourself with a speeding ticket!
- In Austria and Switzerland you are required by law to purchase a temporary road tax.
- European traffic police do issue on-the-spot fines, often hefty, and as speed limits vary from country to country make sure you are aware of the laws. You often have to pay fines in cash or face possible arrest.
- Many countries require you, by law, to pack safety equipment such as First Aid kit, spare light bulbs, fire extinguisher, warning triangle – sometimes 2 required. Check what is needed well before you leave.
- Make a note of key codes and anti-theft codes for door/ignition/radio, etc.
- Always wear your seat belt. If your vehicle has seat belts fitted in the rear passenger seats, these must also be worn by law in many countries. Make sure you have a child restraint

seat, if required. Children under three years of age must be in a child restraint. Be aware of laws and requirements for carrying children in vehicles.

- Keep your fuel topped up! Running out of fuel in some European countries can result in a fine and serious sense of humour failure. Spare fuel containers are illegal in some countries and also not permitted on ferries.
- If travelling in winter and your vehicle uses diesel fuel, be aware that diesel can freeze in sub-zero temperatures. Also, check anti-freeze and carry extra for top-ups. Likewise, make sure your battery is checked or replaced prior to leaving for a cold climate as the battery tends to get more use. Brakes should also be well serviced or replaced if you plan to use mountain passes. Use the correct weight of oil for cold conditions. Cold weather can affect light bulbs, so check them regularly. Don't forget anti-freeze for windscreen washing fluid.
- Clear your car completely of snow, not just the windscreen. Use de-icer to unfreeze locks or quickly defrost windows.
- Check if the countries you are visiting have traffic/weather information given out in English on the radio.
- In some countries it is required by law to turn on your lights during poor visibility or when passing through tunnels.
- Have headlamp converters fitted over your headlights to avoid blinding drivers coming towards you when driving on the opposite side of the road. Required by law in many countries.
- Manually inspect oil and fluids in your vehicle regularly, regardless of the instrument panel readout.
- Gather information ahead of time on emergency procedures to follow in the event of an accident or breakdown of your vehicle.
- Stay in touch with family or friends, especially in the event of any type of 'disaster.' Let someone know you are okay so that they do not worry and call authorities.
- Do not lend your vehicle to strangers. If you are riding in someone else's vehicle and you need to go through a border crossing or customs checkpoint, it is advisable to leave the vehicle and go through by yourself on foot, carrying your own bags.
- **Lastly: Think and plan ahead. Maintain a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you! Keep your speed down. Above all - use common sense. Spend time in planning and preparation. Incurring fines or having an accident or breakdown through neglect or ignorance will spoil your holiday, or perhaps worse. Don't drive if you are tired and DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE!**

Note: This information is intended as guidance only and as rules and information may change be sure to check for yourself before you travel.