



DRIVING SAFELY FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS IN ITALY

In this section you can find all the essential information for **driving safely in Italy**, and look up the main rules of the Highway Code, from the documents you must carry with you to speed limits and the most important road signs to be aware of.

You will also find useful guidance on road safety, such as the compulsory use of child safety seats, the prohibition on driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and the rules to follow if you are travelling on foot or by bicycle. In addition, you may find practical advice on correct behaviour while driving on motorways and in tunnels.

Finally, you will find instructions on what to do in the event of emergencies, breakdowns or accidents, to help you travel safely and responsibly.

DOCUMENTS, MANDATORY EQUIPMENT, AND ITEMS TO KEEP IN YOUR VEHICLE

Everything you need to carry with you: personal and vehicle documents, mandatory equipment, recommended items, and specific rules for LPG/methane-powered vehicles.

- [Compulsory documents and safety equipment to keep in your vehicle](#)
- [LPG/methane-powered Motor vehicles](#)

PASSENGER SAFETY AND DRIVING BEHAVIOUR

Rules dedicated to the protection of passengers and driver conduct, with particular attention to vulnerable road users and devices that may affect driving.

- [Safe transport of children](#)
- [Footwear, use of lenses and other electronic devices](#)
- [Blood alcohol limits, narcotic and psychotropic substances](#)

SOFT MOBILITY AND MICROMOBILITY

Designed for the most vulnerable road users and light vehicles, with guidance on rules, behaviour, and designated areas.

- [Mopeds](#)
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- [Pedestrians](#)

ROAD SIGNS, LIMITS, AND CORRECT USE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

General traffic rules, understanding road signs, speed limits and rules for the use of lights, as well as provisions for reserved lanes, limited traffic zones (ZTL) and roundabouts.

- [Road signs, speed limits and use of lights](#)
- [Reserved lanes, limited traffic zones \(ZTL\) and roundabouts](#)

STOPPING, PARKING AND DESIGNATED AREAS

Parking rules, types of parking and specific regulations for vehicle categories.

- [Parking](#)
- [Motorhome drivers](#)
- [Taxis](#)
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MOTORWAYS, TUNNELS, AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Rules for driving on major infrastructure and procedures to follow if you get in an accident, experience breakdown or need to leave your vehicle.

- [Motorways](#)
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- [What to do in the event of an accident, breakdown or when getting out of the vehicle](#)

ANIMALS, TRANSPORT, AND RESCUE

Rules for the safe transport of animals and rescue procedures in the event of an accident.

- [Transport and rescue of animals](#)

FOREIGN DRIVERS AND PENALTIES

Useful information for those driving in Italy with a foreign license and the applicable penalties.

- [Penalties for foreign drivers](#)

USEFUL NUMBERS AND ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Contacts: Essential contacts for emergencies, roadside assistance, traffic information and other useful driver services.

- [Telephone numbers and useful services](#)

COMPULSORY DOCUMENTS AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT TO BE CARRIED ON BOARD

Drivers of foreign-registered vehicles having fulfilled customs obligations (if applicable) are allowed to drive in Italy for a maximum of one year.

When driving in Italy, you need to have the following documents on board:

EU countries:

- Vehicle registration certificate
- driving licence issued by an EU/EFTA country entitling to drive the corresponding vehicle type
- third party liability insurance policy issued in an EU country
- vehicle with a valid periodic inspection.

Non-EU countries:

- Vehicle registration certificate
- national driving licence issued by a non-EU country
- international driving permit* or a certified translation (*traduzione giurata*)** into Italian of the national driving licence
- third party liability insurance policy issued in an EU country. Residents of non-EU countries should contact their insurance company prior to departure and check whether they need a green card (International Motor Insurance Certificate)*** or a temporary frontier policy****
- all vehicles registered in non-EU countries, when travelling in Italy, must display a sticker on the rear bearing their country's international distinguishing sign.

Warning triangle

It is mandatory to carry a warning triangle on board to signal an emergency stop. It must be placed in a stable position at least 50 metres behind the stationary vehicle, provided the road layout allows for it. Otherwise, it should be placed where it is most clearly visible to oncoming traffic.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 162, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

High visibility vests or braces

High visibility vests or braces must be worn when stepping out of the vehicle – in case of an accident, a breakdown or for any other reason - outside built-up areas at night and even in the daytime in case of poor visibility. This also applies in lay-bys and emergency lanes. High visibility items must always be kept in the vehicle's driver and passenger compartments.*****

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 162, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Seat belts

Seat belts are compulsory for the driver and all passengers of vehicles, including light quadricycles and minicars.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172, paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Main driving rules

In Italy, driving is on the right.

Drivers must keep the rightmost free lane of the carriageway. Left-hand lanes are reserved for overtaking.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 143, paragraph 13 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Driving on the emergency lane is forbidden, since this is reserved for rescue and emergency vehicles and for emergency stops.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 176, paragraph 20 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

A safe distance must be maintained to avoid a collision with the vehicle in front in the event of a stop.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 149, paragraph 4 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

* International Driving Permits can be of the two following types:

- "Geneva Convention – 1949", valid for 1 year
- "Vienna Convention – 1968", valid for 3 years

Both types are valid provided that the associated national driving licences are also valid.

While some countries accept both types, others accept only one of the two. Italy accepts both types.

**A certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) is a full translation into Italian of the foreign driving licence. It can be made by:

- a representative of the Embassy/Consulate of the State having issued the national driving licence, or by
- an official translator/interpreter who must certify before a Court clerk that the translation is a true copy of the original.

***A Green Card (*Carta Verde*) is an international motor insurance certificate allowing a vehicle to enter and travel in a foreign country and proving its compliance with the insurance obligation for third-party motor liability (TPL).

The Green Card is released under the responsibility of the National Insurance Bureau of the country where the vehicle was registered. It is issued by a motor insurer together with the policy or upon request. To get your green card, you need to contact your motor liability insurer.

****A short-term border insurance is a temporary third party liability cover. It can be issued only for vehicles registered in foreign countries not belonging to the European Economic Area and which are temporarily being driven in Italy.

*****It is advisable to store high-visibility vests or braces in the passenger compartment (and not in the boot) so they can be put on before getting out of the car, thus avoiding an offence. High-visibility vests/braces must have specific technical features established by law. It is important to check that the garments bear the CE mark and the international standard UNI EN ISO 20471:2017 marking.

LPG/METHANE-FUELLED VEHICLES

Parking/garaging lpg-fuelled vehicles

Motorists can park LPG-fuelled vehicles conforming to the UN/ECE 67/01 Regulation - that is, all vehicles with an LPG system installed after 1st January 2001 - on above-ground floors and first underground floor of garages, even if there are other floors below.

Vehicles not compliant with this regulation must instead be parked only on above-ground levels (or on underground floors not connected to lower floors).

LPG/CNG (methane) STATIONS

For information on the CNG and LPG station network, we suggest visiting specialized websites such as <https://carburanti.mise.gov.it/ospzSearch/risultati>.

Embarking LPG/methane-fuelled vehicles on ships

LPG/methane-fuelled vehicles can be embarked on ships, provided their fuel type has been notified at the time of booking and of embarking in order to be placed in the appropriate areas.

Generally, the tank must be at least partially empty and, for LPG or CNG vehicles, the shut-off valve must be closed during the voyage, according to the shipping company's instructions.

Passenger safety and driving behaviour

SAFE TRANSPORT OF CHILDREN

Carrying children safely in cars

Children less than 1.50 m tall must be secured to the seat with a child restraint system that is suitable for their weight and approved in accordance with the regulations laid down by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport as well as with EU regulations and directives. Children over 1.50 m tall must wear normal seat belts.

When renting a vehicle registered in Italy, it is also mandatory to use an anti-abandonment alarm device when carrying children under the age of 4.

The driver, or the adult accompanying the minor, is responsible for compliance regarding the use of an appropriate restraint system/child seat or seat belts.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Tips for child car safety

- 1) Use the most appropriate child restraint:
 - suitable for the child's weight
 - bearing the European type-approval label (ECE R44-04; ECE R129 which takes into account not only the weight but also the height of the child).
- 2) Fit the child restraint properly:
 - fully comply with the manufacturer's instructions
 - if the car is equipped with an Isofix system, the child restraint is more safely installed, being directly and rigidly attached to the car structure
 - it is forbidden to fit the child restraint rearward facing in the front seat, unless the front seat's airbag is deactivated.
- 3) Place the child correctly in the child restraint:
 - avoid positioning the restraint belts too close to the neck
 - always tighten the seat belts correctly
 - take off the child's heavy clothing before placing him/her in the seat.

Please note that a collision at 15 km/h (9.321 mph) can be fatal for a child not secured with appropriate child restraint. In a crash at 56 km/h (34.7984 mph), a child weighing 15 kg (33.07 lbs) develops a striking force equal to 185 kg (407.85 lbs). No matter how tightly you try to hold the child, he/she will be ripped from your arms.

Child seat types

Group	Weight/estimated age	Best child seat position	Seat position
Group 0	Up to 10 kg (approx. 12 months old)	Rear seats	Carrycot lengthwise along the back seat
Group 0+	Up to 13 kg (approx. 24 months old)	Rear seats	Rear-facing
Group 1	9 to 18 kg (approx. from 9 months to 4 years old)	Rear seats	Rear-facing up to 2 years old
Group 2	15 to 25 kg (approx. from 3 to 6 years old)	Front and rear seats	Forward-facing
Group 3	22 to 36 kg (approx. from 5 to 12 years old)	Front and rear seats	Forward-facing

i-Size Table **

Category i-Size	Child's height	Age (approximate)	Installation
i - Size (Phase I)	Up to 105 cm	0 - 4 years	Isofix, rear-facing up to 15 months
i - Size (Phase II)	100 - 150 cm	3.5 - 12 years	Isofix or seat belts
i - Size (Phase III)	Up to 105 cm	0 - 4 years	Seat belts

Children on motorbikes

Only one passenger of at least 5 years of age can be carried on a motorbike or moped, as long as the child can sit in a firm balanced position. The child must wear an EU approved helmet.

In case the child being carried is less than 5 years old, the sanctions provided for in Article 170 paragraph 6-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply.

In case the child being carried is aged at least 5 but he/she is not wearing a helmet, the sanctions provided for in Article 171 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

* Classification of child seats by weight/age group (ECE R44-04 regulation)

** Classification of child seats by height (UNECE R129 regulation)

FOOTWEAR, USE OF EYEGLASSES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Footwear

You can reasonably choose the type of shoes to wear for driving.

The ban on wearing open footwear no longer applies*, as almost all braking systems today are hydraulic or electronic. As a rule, drivers are free to choose what to wear as long as their clothing allows them to drive safely, ensuring free movements and a good grip on the pedals.

Use of eyeglasses, mobile phones and electronic devices

Driving licence holders must wear eyeglasses or any other corrective devices which have been prescribed to them.

While driving you are not allowed to use hand-held mobile phones or other electronic devices (e.g. tablets and similar devices, headphones for music). You may though use mobile phones with hands-free or headset devices, provided you can still adequately hear other sounds around you.

In case of non-compliance with the obligation to wear eyeglasses, the sanctions provided for in Article 173, paragraph 3 of the Italian Highway Code apply. In case of use of hand-held mobile phones and electronic devices, the sanctions provided for in Article 173 paragraph 3bis of the Italian Highway Code apply, including a driving ban from 1 to 3 months if the offence is repeated within 2 years.

* As a rule (Article 141 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code), drivers must keep full control of their vehicle at all times and safely perform all necessary manoeuvres, especially the timely stopping of the vehicle. In the first instance, it is the traffic/police officer who will check whether the shoes you were wearing allowed you to drive safely. In case of appeal, the judge will decide on the matter. Please, bear in mind that in case of an accident the insurance company can refuse to grant you compensation if the traffic/police officer's report states your footwear was not appropriate for driving.

LEGAL ALCOHOL LIMITS. DRUGS.

In Italy, foreign drivers driving under the influence are subject to the same penalties as Italian citizens, including fines, point deductions, suspension, or revocation of their driver's license. In the case of a conviction for driving under the influence, a foreign driver's license may be revoked, making the driver unable to drive in Italy, and may result in arrest and vehicle confiscation.

Under Italian law, the maximum permitted blood alcohol limit* is 0.5 grams per litre (g/l).

The blood alcohol content limit, however, must be zero for novice drivers (within the first three years of obtaining their licence), young drivers aged up to 21, and professional drivers**.

In case of driving under the influence and depending on the established blood alcohol content, the sanctions provided for by Article 186, paragraph 2, letters a) b), and c), and Article 186-bis of the Italian Highway Code shall apply.

Blood alcohol testing is usually performed using a device called breathalyzer, through two measurements taken at an interval of at least 5 minutes.

Penalties are based on the extent to which the limit is exceeded and, in the event of a repeat offense, they can be even more severe.

Drivers under the age of 18 years with a blood alcohol content level of more than 0 (zero) and up to 0.5 g/l, cannot obtain a category B driving license until they reach 19. In case the blood alcohol content level is more than 0.5 g/l, they cannot obtain a B license before the age of 21.

It is prohibited to drive after consuming narcotic or psychotropic substances. In the event of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for by Article 187, paragraph 1 et seq., of the Italian Highway Code shall apply.

* It is not possible to calculate your blood alcohol level using a mathematical formula, since it depends on many factors, mainly your weight, sex, the number of drinks and their alcohol content, but also how much food you've eaten and over what period of time you have drunk.

Clubs and bars' owners are required by law to display a table that allows customers to roughly estimate their blood alcohol level, so that they can understand the consequences of alcohol intake. Moreover, clubs and bars that stay open after midnight must be equipped with a breath alcohol tester to be made available to customers upon request.

** Professional drivers are:

- chauffeurs
- drivers of taxi or other passenger-carrying vehicles
- drivers of public service vehicles
- drivers of goods vehicles (company drivers etc.).

The professional driver's category also includes drivers of passengers or goods vehicles over 3.5 t full laden weight and drivers of buses and other vehicles having more than eight passenger seats excluding the driver's seat, as well as drivers of articulated vehicles and articulated buses.

Soft mobility and micromobility

MOPEDS

When riding in Italy, moped* riders must always have with them:

EU Countries:

- moped registration document (or technical certificate)
- valid national driving licence** entitling to drive a moped
- third party liability insurance coverage.

Non-EU Countries:

- moped registration document (or technical certificate)
- valid national driving licence entitling to drive a moped
- international driving permit *** or a certified translation (traduzione giurata)**** into Italian of the national driving licence
- Third-party liability insurance coverage valid in Italy. Residents of non-EU countries should contact their insurance company prior to departure and check whether they need a green card (international insurance certificate)***** or a short-term insurance*****.

Moped riders under 16 of age cannot carry any passenger.

Moped riders aged at least 16 can carry one passenger, provided this is indicated in the moped registration document.

It is unlawful to carry children under the age of 5 on a moped. In case of non-compliance, the provisions of Article 170 paragraph 6-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply.

In case of non-compliance with the 16 years age limit for carrying a passenger or with passenger transport restrictions according to the moped registration document, the provisions of Article 170 paragraph 6 of the Italian Highway Code apply. In case the infringement is committed by a person under the age of 16, the moped is subject to the so-called *fermo amministrativo* (a sort of administrative hold) for 60 days.

Helmet use

Motorcycle and moped riders must wear a helmet approved under current UN/ECE regulations*****, which must be kept properly fastened at all times.

In case of non-compliance, the provisions of Article 171 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code shall apply, including the deduction of points from the driver's license and the administrative lien (*fermo amministrativo*) of the vehicle. For unlicensed minors, parental responsibility or legal guardianship applies.

*Mopeds are two or three-wheeled vehicles fitted with an (internal combustion) engine having a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cm³ and having a maximum speed of up to 45 km/h on a flat road. The moped must have a number plate that identifies the owner according to the registration certificate. The number plate is personal. It can be paired with only one vehicle and must be held by the owner in case the vehicle is sold.

**The AM category driving licence (Directive 2006/126/EC, transposed in Italy in 2013) allows European citizens aged 16 (minimum age) to drive mopeds throughout the EU. Member States can decide to lower the age limit to 14 years old. If the driver is younger than 16, her/his AM license is valid only in the issuing country.

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*****A short-term border insurance is a temporary third party liability cover. It can be issued only for vehicles registered in foreign countries not belonging to the European Economic Area and which are temporarily being driven in Italy.

*****There is no legal requirement to wear a helmet for drivers and passengers of:

- fully enclosed three or four-wheeled mopeds and motorcycles
- partially enclosed two or three-wheeled mopeds and motorcycles equipped with restraint systems and other devices ensuring a safe use of the vehicle, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable regulation.

BICYCLES

Cyclists must not carry anything hampering their arms and legs when riding. They must hold the handlebar with at least one hand. Cyclists must also wear a high visibility reflective vest or braces when riding outside built-up areas starting from half an hour after sunset until half an hour before sunrise. They must always wear a reflective jacket or braces when riding in tunnels, both in built-up areas and outside.

Cyclists must ride in a single line whenever traffic conditions require it and, in any case, never more than two abreast. Outside of built-up areas, they must always ride in a single line, unless one of them is under ten years of age and is riding on the right of the other.

Cyclists must hand-walk their bicycles whenever they are a hindrance or danger to pedestrians, due to traffic conditions.

Cyclists must travel on their reserved lanes, where applicable.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 182 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

* High visibility reflective vests/braces must have specific technical features established by law. It is important to check that the garments bear the CE along with the international standard UNI EN ISO 20471 marks.

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians must walk on sidewalks or in the areas that are reserved to them. If they are not available or cannot be used, pedestrians must walk along the edge of the road in the opposite direction to that of vehicles, taking care not to obstruct the traffic flow. Outside built-up areas, at night and on unlit roads, it is mandatory to walk in single file.

To cross the street, pedestrians must use zebra crossings, underpasses, or overpasses. If they are unavailable or are too distant (more than 100 metres), they can cross it very carefully and exclusively perpendicularly to the road. Pedestrians must not cross diagonally intersections and squares outside of designated crossings, where provided.

Pedestrians must not stop or stand on the carriageway, unless necessary, nor hinder others gathering in groups on sidewalks or near zebra crossings.

Vehicles always have the right of way when there is no designated pedestrian crossing. Crossing in front of buses, trams, or trolleybuses stationary at their stops is also forbidden.

Vehicles used by children or persons with disabilities are permitted to circulate within pedestrian zones in accordance with the rules established by the competent authorities. Vehicles for persons with disabilities may also use cycle lanes and pedestrian-cycle paths.

It is forbidden to use roller skates, skateboards, or similar devices on the carriageway. Games, training and sports activities on the roads are prohibited, unless authorized. Even within pedestrian zones the use of these devices is restricted if they pose a risk to other persons.

Motorists and pedestrians

Drivers must stop and give way to pedestrians walking on a zebra crossing or being clearly about to cross.

Drivers must give way to pedestrians who are about to cross at a zebra crossing or who have already started to cross a road where there is no crossing, by slowing down and stopping if necessary. If pedestrians are about to cross at a zebra crossing or have already started to cross a road where there is no crossing, drivers must give way to them, by slowing down and, if necessary, by stopping.

Special attention must be paid to the disabled, the elderly and children's predictable actions when they are crossing a road.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 191 paragraph 4 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Road signs, limits, and correct use of infrastructure

ROAD SIGNS

Road users must comply with the instructions given by road signs and traffic officers. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 146 paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code apply. Direction signs can be identified by their background colours:

Color	Usage	Image of the sign
Green:	motorways	
Blue:	extra-urban roads	
White:	urban roads or towards urban destinations; to indicate hotels and accommodation facilities in urban areas	
Yellow:	temporary signs indicating construction sites, mandatory detours, or alternative routes due to roadworks	
Brown:	direction signs for historic, artistic, cultural and tourist destinations. Also used to indicate natural or recreational areas and camping sites	
Black:	direction signs for factories, industrial areas, handicraft businesses and shopping centres on the outskirts of a city or town	

Orange:	signs for public service vehicles (taxis and school buses)	
White and red	striped signs to be used at road construction sites	
Red	emergency, SOS, and accident signs	
Gray	temporary road signs	

SPEED LIMITS

Motor vehicles

The maximum allowed speed for motor vehicles, unless otherwise indicated on signs, is:

- 130 km/h on motorways. According to the Italian Highway Code, motorway owners/concessionaires can raise the speed limit up to 150 km/h, which has to be indicated by appropriate road signs, on some motorway sections with three lanes in each direction of travel
- 110 km/h on main roads outside built-up areas
- 90 km/h on secondary and local roads outside built-up areas
- 50 km/h in built-up areas; road signs can indicate a speed limit up to 70 km/h on some urban streets having appropriate architectural and functional features.

In bad weather conditions, the maximum allowed speed is 110 km/h on motorways and 90 km/h on main roads outside built-up areas.

Limits may vary significantly for novice drivers, special vehicles, motorhomes, vehicles with trailers, etc. For example, novice drivers may not exceed 100 km/h on motorways and 90 km/h on main extra-urban roads.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 142 paragraph 7 et seq. of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Motorhomes

Speed limits for motorhomes are:

- 50 km/h in built-up areas; 80 km/h outside built-up areas; 100 km/h on motorways (if laden weight is over 3.5 t and up to 12 t)
- 50 km/h in built-up areas; 70 km/h in built-up areas; 80 km/h on motorways (if laden weight is over 12 t).

Mopeds e micro cars

The maximum allowed speed for mopeds and micro cars up to 50 cc is 45 km/h unless lower limits are indicated on road signs.



Micro cars have reduced size and passenger space. The driver can be a minor provided he/she has an AM license in case of European citizens or a valid driving license in case of non-European citizens.

If specified in the moped registration certificate, it is possible to carry only a passenger, provided the driver is at least 16 years old.

Seat belts are compulsory both for the driver and passenger of micro cars. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Mopeds and micro cars are not allowed on motorways, main roads outside urban areas and any other no thoroughfare road for mopeds and micro cars.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 175 paragraph 16 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

LIGHTS AND HEADLIGHTS

Parking lights and dipped headlights must be switched on outside built-up areas and in tunnels. Full beam headlights can be used when visibility is poor as far as they do not dazzle oncoming/preceding vehicles or other road users.

In urban areas, parking lights and dipped headlights must be switched on from half an hour after sunset to half an hour before sunrise or when visibility is poor (e.g., rain, fog, snow).

Motorcyclists and moped riders must always switch on parking lights and dipped headlights in and outside built-up areas.

Daytime running lights - if fitted on the vehicle - can be used as an alternative to dipped headlights during daytime when visibility is good (but not in tunnels).

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 152 paragraph 2, and Article 153 paragraph 11 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

BUS AND TAXI LANES

It is forbidden to drive on the lanes reserved for public transport. Such lanes are marked by special yellow vertical and horizontal signs.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

RESTRICTED TRAFFIC AREAS (*ZONE A TRAFFICO LIMITATO - ZTL*)

Restricted Traffic Areas (ZTLs henceforth) are zones - mainly in historic city centres - where unauthorized vehicles are prohibited from driving except at certain times. Depending on local regulations, ZTLs access days and hours vary from town to town.

Every time a vehicle enters or exits a ZTL, cameras take a picture of its number plate. The picture is automatically sent to the Municipal Police and, if the vehicle is not authorised to enter the area, a fine is sent to the vehicle owner.

ZTLs are marked by signs bearing a white circle with red borders (as in the picture below) indicating the hours when access is not permitted. In this picture, ZTL is in force from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



In the image below, the crossed hammers  indicate that ZTL only applies on weekdays (excluding Sundays and bank holidays) from 7.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. and that Euro 1 mopeds cannot enter the Zone from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



When road signs, as shown in the image below, display the message "VARCO NON ATTIVO", it means that vehicles may enter the ZTL. Conversely, the wording "VARCO ATTIVO" indicates that only authorised vehicles are allowed to access the ZTL.



In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Motorway Code apply.

ROUNABOUTS

On approaching a roundabout, specific signs can indicate the right of way. If there are no traffic signs or road markings (stop or give way signs), it is mandatory to give way to vehicles coming from the right.

Drivers approaching a roundabout must exercise the utmost caution to avoid accidents, regulate their speed both when entering and exiting, and pay attention when changing lanes, being careful not to cut off other motorists and being ready to give way to other vehicles. Special attention must be paid to any pedestrian crossings.

In case of non-compliance with speed limits, the sanctions provided for in Article 141 paragraph 8 of the Italian Motorway Code apply. In case of non-compliance with the right of way rules, the sanctions provided for in Article 145 paragraph 10 of the Italian Motorway Code apply.

In case of non-compliance with the rules on the change of direction and/or lane, the sanctions provided for in Article 154 paragraph 8 of the Italian Motorway Code apply. See more below about single-lane roundabouts* and multi-lane roundabouts**.

* When entering a single-lane roundabout, you must:

- Keep to the right when entering
- Signal right if you want to take the first exit on the right
- If you want to take any farther exit on the right, you have to signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take.

** The above is also valid for multi-lane roundabouts, but pay attention to the lane you choose when travelling.

- If you intend to take the first exit on the right, keep right when entering the roundabout and signal right. If you want to take any farther exit on the right, you have to signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take.
- If you need to go straight on the same road, keep right when entering the roundabout and signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take. In case of heavy traffic, it is allowed to enter the roundabout using the central lane but to exit the roundabout you must start moving into the utmost right lane in advance.
- If you are approaching the roundabout from the left lane of a road and want to travel on its left lane, keep to the left and signal left when entering, then move into the right lane in advance and signal right after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take. In case of heavy traffic, you can enter the roundabout using the right lane, even if you intend to drive on its left lane.

Stopping, parking and designated areas

PARKING

The Italian Highway Code defines parking as the prolonged stop of the vehicle, with the driver being able to leave.

Drivers must check road signs to understand if parking is allowed.

In cities, parking places are usually indicated by road-surface markings in three distinct colours and vertical signs display times and conditions for parking.

Blue lines indicate time-based paid parking. Charges may vary in each municipality and are indicated on vertical signs. The payment receipt must be displayed on the vehicle's dashboard. Payment can be usually made either in cash at local parking metres, or by purchasing a "scratch and display" coupon at tobacconists' or authorised newspaper shops.

White lines indicate free parking. A vertical sign may show time restrictions set by the municipality. If so required by road signs, drivers must show the time of their arrival on a parking disc, to be displayed on the vehicle's dashboard.

Yellow lines* indicate that parking is reserved for certain categories of users holding a permit issued by the relevant municipality (e.g., disabled people, local residents, municipal services and utilities operators). Some Municipalities may provide areas designated for other categories, such as pregnant women or parents with small children, through local regulations (the so-called "pink parking spaces").

* Yellow lines are also used for other purposes, such as marking litter bin areas or road work zones.

MOTORHOME DRIVERS

To drive a motorhome*, you must keep the following documents on board:

EU countries:

- Driving license** issued by an EU/EFTA country, valid for the type of vehicle you are driving
- Third Party Liability insurance cover, including passengers but excluding the driver; there is no particular difference between a car insurance and a motorhome one (except for possible differences in premium rates)
- Vehicle registration certificate.

Non-EU countries:

- Driving license issued by a non-EU country
- Either an international driving permit*** or a certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) of the driving license into Italian ****
- Vehicle registration certificate
- Insurance: before departure, residents of non-EU countries must check with their insurance company whether they need to obtain a Green Card (international insurance certificate)***** or a short term frontier insurance*****.

All non-EU-registered vehicles circulating in Italy must display a sticker at the rear bearing the respective country code.

Theft, fire and comprehensive insurance, i.e. an insurance policy covering all risks for the vehicle and all passengers including the driver, is optional. For motorhomes it is possible, but not mandatory, to have additional guarantees, not provided for passenger cars.

Speed limits

The maximum permitted speed is:

for motorhomes with a laden weight up to 3.5 t:

- 130 km/h on motorways. According to the Italian Highway Code, motorway owners/concessionaires can raise the speed limit up to 150 km/h, which has to be indicated by appropriate road signs, on some motorway sections with three lanes in each direction of travel
- 110 km/h on the main roads outside built-up areas
- 90 km/h on the secondary and local roads outside built-up areas
- 50 km/h in built-up areas; specific signs can indicate a speed limit up to 70 km/h on some urban streets having appropriate architectural and functional features;

for motorhomes with a laden weight over 3.5 t and up to 12 t:

- 50 km/h in built-up areas
- 80 km/h outside built-up areas
- 100 km/h on motorways

for motorhomes with a laden weight exceeding 12 t:

- 50 km/h in built-up areas
- 70 km/h outside built-up areas
- 80 km/h on motorways.

You must adapt your driving speed to your vehicle's load and to the road conditions, and comply with the speed limits shown on road signs, even if temporary, on any type of road. On motorways with three or more lanes, motorhomes longer than 7m must use the two rightmost lanes.

Motorhome stopover and parking

Stopover/parking areas***** are indicated by specific road signs and can be found on dedicated websites. Motorhomes may be parked in areas reserved for vehicle parking, displaying the payment receipt on the dashboard (if required).

Power recharging and wastewater disposal

Electricity can be recharged at electric hook-up points located within campsites, or at private car parks or stopover/parking areas. Wastewater must be drained into specific areas available in each town or within campsites.

Transportable loads

Mopeds and bikes can be transported provided that the motorhome is equipped with the appropriate carrier. Protruding loads may not exceed 30% of the length of the vehicle and may only protrude to the rear. A protruding load must be indicated by a square panel (50 cm x 50 cm) with reflective red and white diagonal stripes. The load must not obscure the license plate or the lights.

A roof rack may be installed on a motorhome to transport inflatable dinghies, windsurfs or small boats.

* Motorhomes are also referred to as auto caravans. A motorhome is a vehicle with a special bodywork, equipped as a self-contained travelling home, that can accommodate up to seven people including the driver (Article 54 paragraph 1 letter m of the Italian Highway Code). Motorhomes are classified as motor vehicles; they have a more complete set-up to allow greater comfort for the occupants and can travel without any towing as they are equipped with an engine.

However, please note that the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport's Circular letter no. 2851 /M362 of 6 June 2005 states that motorhomes can be classified as M1, M2 or M3 depending on the number of seats. M2 category refers to passenger vehicles having more than eight seats, in addition to the driver's seat, and not exceeding 5 t full laden weight. M3 refers to passenger vehicles having more than eight seats, in addition to the driver's seat, and exceeding 5 t full laden weight.

** You need a B driving license to drive a motorhome, provided that the full laden weight does not exceed 3.5 t; if this limit is exceeded, a C license is required (Article 116 paragraph 3 of the Italian Highway Code).

*** International Driving Permits can be of the two following types:

- "Geneva Convention – 1949", valid for 1 year
- "Vienna Convention – 1968", valid for 3 years.

Both types are valid provided that the associated national driving licenses are also valid. While some countries accept both types, others accept only one of the two. Italy accepts both types.

**** A certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) is only required if the country does not apply one of the above conventions or if the local authorities of the state where you are driving require it.

A certified translation is a full translation of the foreign driving licence into Italian, which must be certified as conforming to the original foreign text by:

- a representative of the Embassy/Consulate of the State having issued the national driving licence
- an official translator/interpreter who certifies, under oath before a civil status officer (usually a Clerk of the Court), that the translation is a true copy of the original.

***** A Green Card (*Carta Verde*) is an international motor insurance certificate allowing a vehicle to enter and travel in a foreign country and proving its compliance with the insurance obligation for third-party motor liability (TPL).

The Green Card is released under the responsibility of the National Insurance Bureau of the country where the vehicle was registered. It is issued by a motor insurer together with the insurance policy or upon request. To get your green card, you need to contact your motor liability insurer.

***** A short term border insurance is a temporary third party liability cover. It can be issued only for vehicles registered in foreign countries not belonging to the European Economic Area, which are temporarily being driven in Italy.

***** Motorhome parking, where permitted, is not considered camping provided that the vehicle rests on the ground only on its wheels, discharges only engine exhaust, and does not occupy more space than the dimensions of the motorhome itself (meaning windows must not be kept open, and awning or entry steps must not be deployed). In the event of paid parking or stopovers, some municipalities apply a 50% surcharge on motorhome rates compared to standard passenger car tariffs in the same area.

TAXIS

In Italy taxis are white vehicles, with a "TAXI" sign on the roof and on the sides, with an identification code visible on the doors. Taxis represent a public service that complements public transport.

According to municipal regulations, a plate indicating the taxi license number, the name of the driver or the name of the company must also be displayed inside the vehicle on the rear left door.

Taxi fares

Taxis must be fitted with an approved and visible taximeter, which calculates the fare based on distance, time taken, and tariff parameters.

The official fares must be displayed and vary from municipality to municipality according to the route (urban or extra urban), time of the trip (day, night) and day (weekdays or Sundays/public holidays). Some municipalities provide fixed fares for trips to and from airports or local discounted fares.

Payments may be made in cash or through electronic means (POS). Taxi drivers are required to accept payments via POS, except in cases of proven disruption. Customers can request a receipt indicating the route taken, taxi number, company name and fare paid.

You are advised to inquire for the estimated price of the trip before getting into a taxi.

Luggage

For luggage, surcharges depend on municipal regulations: in some cities, the first bag may be free of charge, while in others, you pay for all bags or only for those exceeding certain dimensions.

Before getting into a taxi, you are advised to ask if a surcharge applies to pieces of luggage exceeding 35 x 25 x 50 cm.

CAR RENTING

The following documents are generally required to rent a car in Italy:

EU countries

- EU/EFTA driving license valid for the vehicle type being driven (many rental companies require that it has been held for at least one year)*
- document of identification (passport or identity card)
- credit card in the renter's name.

Non-EU countries

- If you hold a driving licence issued by a non-EU country, you also need an international driving permit** or a certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) into Italian of your driving licence***.

Additional car renting fees

- An additional charge is usually applied for a second driver
- GPS navigation device and child seat are to be requested in advance and paid on the spot
- Extra charge if the vehicle is to be driven abroad
- Extra charge if the vehicle is returned to a different location.

Please remember that babies and children up to 1.5 m in height must always be placed in an approved restraint system or seated in a child seat suitable for their weight.

Car rental tips

- Check any possible driving age limit. Some car rental companies require the driver to be aged 21 or 23, and not over 65-75.*
- carefully check the condition of the car, and any possible pre-existing damages and report them in the car's delivery paper to avoid being unduly charged. If you are not sure of the car's safety, have it replaced. When returning the car, check any possible damages occurred and mention them in the specific paper, annexing photographic evidence with date and time
- inquire about any costs not clearly indicated, concerning for example:
 - limited mileage
 - age of the driver (under 23), additional driver
 - VAT (Value Added Tax - 22% on the price of service), which is often not included in the final price
 - car child seat
- be fully aware of the refuelling policy
- check beforehand fuel level, and return the car with the same fuel level
- carefully check the insurance cover, in particular if you buy car insurance online through an intermediary. Limits of liability may vary from country to country. If possible, choose a comprehensive insurance cover and check that theft is also

included. Check that all risks are actually covered. Damages to tyres, bodywork and caused by stones on the windscreen are generally not included. Check that legal costs and possible court costs are also included

- ask for a copy of the agreement you have signed. The contract must be drawn in a widely spoken language (usually English). Do not sign any incomplete or blank contracts
- the car rental company will deliver a certified copy of the vehicle's registration certificate
- inquire as to what you should do in case of breakdown, theft or accident. Ask for a telephone number you can dial in case of need
- make sure the car is clean before returning it. Consider car-washing. Some companies make no difference between damage and dirt, and charge expensive fees for cleaning
- it is advisable to return the car during the Car Rental opening hours and check the car's conditions together with Car Rental staff. You are responsible for the car's conditions until they collect it
- to avoid any undue charges, when returning the car it is recommended to request and make sure that Car Rental staff terminate the authorization you signed to charge your credit card for car rental expenses.

* Some requirements (minimum age, years of driving experience, and additional conditions) are not required by law, but are rental company policies.

** International Driving Permits can be of the two following types:

- "Geneva Convention – 1949", valid for 1 year
- "Vienna Convention – 1968", valid for 3 years

Both types are valid provided that the associated national driving licences are also valid.

While some countries accept both types, others accept only one of the two. Italy accepts both types.

***A certified translation (*traduzione giurata*) is a full translation of the foreign driving licence into Italian, which must be certified as conforming to the original foreign text by:

- a representative of the Embassy/Consulate of the State having issued the national driving licence
- an official translator/interpreter who certifies, under oath before a civil status officer (usually a Clerk of the Court), that the translation is a true copy of the original.

Motorways, tunnels, and emergency situations

MOTORWAYS

Some vehicles* are prohibited on motorways**.

Italian motorways are operated by various operators and are indicated by green road signs. Access to Italian motorways is generally subject to charge. At motorway toll booths you pay tolls.

Tolls*** are based on the type of vehicle and distance (in kilometres) driven. They can be paid at the toll booths in cash or by debit/credit/prepaid card.

Foreign motorists holding a credit card issued in Italy – exclusively Carta Sì (Visa or Mastercard), Agos, American Express – or having a bank account with an Italian bank that includes shop-online services, can subscribe to the Telepass service and use “Telepass lanes”.

Foreigners can request Telepass activation if they hold a SEPA bank account (including foreign ones) or an Italian or foreign credit/debit card enabled through the Telepass Pay or Telepass Pay X app.

There is also another toll payment method that does not require a bank account in Italy, which is the prepaid Viacard (*Viacard a scalare*). This service is currently discontinued but Viacards remain usable until 31/12/2029 for existing Viacardholders.****

In case, for any reason, the toll results unpaid or partially paid, a Failure to Pay Report is issued*****.

Payment can be made online through the operator’s website or at the points of sale indicated on the receipt.

If you do not collect the entry ticket at the gate or lose it, then the toll is calculated by law from the furthest motorway entry point. Detailed information can be provided by the operator managing the relevant motorway stretch travelled.

On motorways, signs indicate the distance (in km) to the nearest fuel/service stations.

Drivers must responsibly adjust the vehicle’s speed according to the vehicle type, load and weather conditions.

Unless otherwise indicated in specific areas or due to roadworks, the maximum speed limit is 130 km/h – reduced to 110 km/h in the event of bad weather conditions. On some highway sections with three lanes plus an emergency lane in each direction of travel, and equipped with average speed detection systems (i.e., *Tutor*), the motorway owners/operators can raise the maximum speed limit up to 150 km/h, where indicated by specific road signs.

Speed is monitored by the traffic police through different technologies (such as speed cameras, the Tutor system, etc.), which are clearly signposted. In particular, on the stretches where it is active, the Safety Tutor system detects the average speed between two points and compares it with the maximum speed allowed on that stretch.

Drivers exceeding the speed limit are subject to different types of sanctions*****.

Variable Message Signs provide useful traffic information, such as roadworks, journey times,

regulations in force, expected traffic delays, and mandatory exits.

In Italy, driving is on the right. Drivers must keep to the rightmost lane of the carriageway. Left-hand lanes are reserved for overtaking.

Driving in the emergency lane is prohibited, since it is reserved for emergency vehicles, and emergency stops.

A safe following distance must be maintained between vehicles to avoid a collision in case the vehicle in front stops suddenly.

Rest areas are available along motorways for road users to stop, get refreshments, and take a break during their journey. Camping and staying overnight are not permitted.

* Vehicles prohibited on motorways are:

- velocipedes, mopeds, motorbikes under 150 cc if powered by an internal combustion engine, or under 11 kW if powered by an electric motor
- other motorbikes with an unladen weight of up to 400 kilograms or a gross vehicle weight of up to 1300 kilograms, with the exception of tricycles over 250 cc if powered by a combustion engine and in any case over 15 kW, intended for transporting passengers (maximum one passenger in addition to the driver)
- vehicles not fitted with tires
- agricultural machines and operating machines
- vehicles with unsecured loads or overhanging loads exceeding legal limits
- vehicles with no watertight compartment or uncovered loads, if carrying materials that can be dispersed
- vehicles whose load or dimensions exceed the legal limits, subject to exceptions
- vehicles whose general conditions, equipment and tyre conditions can be dangerous
- vehicles carrying loads not properly stowed and secured. Vehicles belonging to the motorways owners/operators or to their authorised parties are not subject to the general rule
- Motorcycles with an engine capacity of no less than 120 cc for internal combustion engines or a power output of no less than 6 kW for electric motors, provided they are ridden by adults.

** "A motorway is an extra-urban or urban multi-carriageway road having the following characteristics: carriageways are independent or separated by permanent barriers; each carriageway has at least two lanes and possibly a hard shoulder on the right side; junctions are not at the same surface level of carriageways and there are not private joining ways; permanent fencing and motorists assistance systems are in place all along the motorway, which is reserved for some kind of motorised vehicles and is marked by specific entry/exit signals. Motorways are equipped with service/rest areas accessible via dedicated entry/exit sideways." (Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Italian Highway Code).

*** Fees are calculated as follows: multiply the unit fare by the number of kilometres driven and add 22% VAT, then round up or down to the nearest 10 cents. The unit fare depends on the vehicle type, based on its height and number of axles, as well as on the characteristics of the motorway section travelled and the concessionaire operating the section.

**** The *Viacard a scalare* card is a prepaid magnetic card, available in denominations of 25, 50 and 75 Euros. It can be used to pay tolls at both automatic booths, by following vocal instructions, and manned booths, by handing to the operator the Viacard along with the entrance ticket.

***** This is a receipt certifying unpaid or partially-paid tolls issued at both manned and automatic (Telepass, Viacard) booths. It shows the vehicle and transit data, the amount to be paid and the method of payment. By paying within 15 days after the receipt is issued, motorists will not bear additional charges.

***** Fines for exceeding speed limits by up to 10 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 10 km/h and up to 40 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 8 of the Italian Highway Code.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 40 km/h and up to 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9 of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 1 to 3 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will face from 8 to 18 months of driving ban.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 6 to 12 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will have their driving licence revoked.

The fines provided for in Article 142 are increased by one third, if the violation is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code).

Sanctions are doubled, if speed limit violations are committed at the wheel of specific types of vehicles.

Novice drivers (within the first three years of obtaining their licenses) must not exceed a speed of 100 km/h on motorways and 90 km/h on main extra-urban roads.

Penalties for non-compliance are provided for in article 117, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code. A license suspension from 2 to 8 months also applies.

TUNNELS

The Italian road and motorway network counts many tunnels*, both through the Alps and the Apennines chains. The major ones are toll tunnels.

When driving through tunnels, you must:

- switch on dipped headlights** even if the tunnel is well lit. In case of non-compliance, the fines indicated in the remarks section apply
- observe the speed limits. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 142, paragraph 7 and seq. of the Italian Highway Code apply***
- not park or stop your vehicle. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 158, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 149, paragraphs 4, 5, 6 of the Italian Highway Code apply****
- never make U-turns or drive in reverse
- switch off the engine when not moving due to heavy traffic
- wear a high-visibility reflective jacket or braces*****, when cycling. In the event of violation, the sanctions provided for in Article 182, paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- look out for emergency exits and S.O.S. posts
- in the event of a fire, extinguish the fire only if it is at an early stage. Otherwise, move away from the fire as soon as possible and let rescue personnel intervene. Leave the vehicle behind and exit the tunnel in the direction opposite the fire.

* The sign 'Tunnel' marks the start of a natural or artificial tunnel, and it is normally located at the tunnel entrance. It can be integrated by information concerning the name and length of the tunnel. In case of non-compliance with road signs, the sanctions provided for in Article 146, paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway Code apply. In case the violation is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., fines are increased by one third.

** In tunnels, parking lights, number plate lights and, if required, marker lights of motor vehicles and towed vehicles must be switched on even during daytime. Drivers of motor vehicles must also switch on dipped headlights. Sanctions for failing to use lights are provided for in Article 152, paragraph 2 of the Italian Highway, whereas sanctions for misusing of lights are provided for in Article 153, paragraph 11.

*** Fines for exceeding speed limits by up to 10 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code. Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 10 km/h and up to 40 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 8 of the Italian Highway Code.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 40 km/h and up to 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9 of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 1 to 3 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will face from 8 to 18 months of driving ban.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 6 to 12 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will have their driving licence revoked.

The fines provided for in Article 142 are increased by one third, if the violation is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code).

Sanctions are doubled, if speed limit violations are committed at the wheel of specific types of vehicles.

Novice drivers (within the first three years of obtaining their licenses) must not exceed a speed of 100 km/h on motorways and 90 km/h on main extra-urban roads (Art. 117 of the Italian Highway Code). Fines for non-compliance are provided for in Article 117, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 2 to 8 months also applies.

****Sanctions for failing to comply with safety distance are provided for in Article 149 paragraphs 4, 5, and 6 of the Italian Highway Code:

- (4): if driving in breach of Article 149
- (5): if the accident causes damage to the vehicle so serious that a technical inspection is needed. Drivers committing this violation at least twice within two years will face from 1 to 3 months of driving ban
- (6): if the accident causes serious injuries to any person, without prejudice to the application of the penalties imposed for manslaughter or personal injuries due to negligence.

In tunnels, keeping a safe following distance is particularly important and is often indicated by specific signage (e.g., "Keep a 100 m distance"). Any violation is always subject to Art. 149 of the Italian Highway Code. The fines provided for in Article 149 are increased by one third, if the violation is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code).

***** Reflective high visibility vests/braces must have specific technical features established by law. It is important to check that the garments bear the CE along with the international standard UNI EN ISO 20471/2017 marks. Cyclists are prohibited from entering certain tunnels; in such cases, the 'No entry for bicycles' sign is displayed.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT, BREAKDOWN, OR WHEN LEAVING THE VEHICLE

High visibility vests or braces* must be worn by drivers and any passengers when stepping out of the vehicle – in case of an accident, breakdown or when leaving the vehicle - outside of built-up areas, at night and even in the daytime in case of poor visibility. This also applies in lay-bys and emergency lanes. For this reason, high visibility vests or braces must always be kept in the vehicle's driver and passenger compartments. In case of non-compliance, the fines provided for in Article 162 paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply. After an accident** you must stop and check the damage caused to other vehicles or property. If necessary, call the local or road police.

In the event of accidents or vehicle breakdowns, signalling with a warning triangle is compulsory, in compliance with Art. 161 of the Italian Highway Code.

If you cause or witness an accident involving injuries to any person, you must stop and provide assistance. If necessary, call the 112 Single Emergency Number, which is the European emergency phone number to contact any emergency service throughout the EU.

In the event of an accident involving animals, the driver must stop*** and ensure timely assistance for pets (e.g. dogs, cats), livestock or protected species. This obligation applies even if the animal is not owned by the driver.

If you need to request ACI roadside assistance, call the toll-free numbers **803.116** - from landline or Italian mobile phones providers - or **800.116.800** - from foreign mobile phones providers. Both numbers are available every day, 24 hours a day.

On motorways, SOS columns help you to receive assistance from the first available tow truck.

Hearing-impaired people can request roadside assistance in Italy by sending a text message to the following mobile phone number **+39.339.9943116**.

Information on road and traffic conditions is available 24 hours a day (in Italian only) by calling the telephone number **1518**.

In the event of an accident only resulting in property damage, the person who caused the accident and any other parties involved must stop. In case of non-compliance, the penalties provided for in Article 189 paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code apply. An additional administrative penalty of license suspension for 15 days to 2 months also applies if the damage to vehicles is so serious that it causes a major traffic obstruction and a vehicle inspection is needed.

In case of accidents resulting in someone else's personal injuries, the person having caused the accident must stop. Failure to comply with this obligation entails imprisonment from 6 months to 3 years and license suspension from 1 to 3 years (Article 189 paragraph 6 of the Italian Highway Code).

Whoever fails to provide assistance to injured persons is punished with imprisonment from 1 to 3 years and license suspension from 1.5 to 5 years (Article 189 paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code).

*It is advisable to store the high-visibility jackets or braces in the passenger compartment (and not in the boot) to put it/them on before getting out of the car without committing an offence. High visibility vests/braces must have specific technical features established by law. It is important to check that the garments bear the CE along with the international standard UNI EN ISO 20471:2013 marks (or subsequent versions).

**In the event of an accident resulting in damage to someone else's property, drivers and any other road users involved must avoid obstructing traffic by placing the vehicle off the carriageway, if possible, or, if not, on the right edge of the carriageway and parallel to it. In case of non-compliance, the fines provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

***In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply. Whoever fails to take all appropriate measures to ensure prompt rescue of pets, livestock or protected animals involved in an accident is punished with the fines provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code.

Animals, transport, and rescue

ANIMAL TRANSPORT AND RESCUE

When carrying an animal on board the vehicle, it shall be positioned so as not to represent a danger or hindrance to driving.

When transporting more than one animal, it is mandatory to place them in appropriate cages or containers, or in the rear seats as long as they are separated from the driver's seat by a net or any other suitable, fixed and approved means. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 169 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply. In the event of an accident involving animals, the person responsible must stop and take all suitable measures to ensure timely rescue for pets (e.g. dogs, cats), livestock, protected species, or wild animals. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply. Anyone involved in an accident resulting in injury to one or more animals is required to ensure prompt emergency assistance. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 189 paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Tips for transporting pets by cars

- Get your pet used to car travel. For the first few times, start by letting your pet get into the car with the engine off so they can explore and get acquainted with the new environment. Afterwards, you can begin by taking short trips.
- Do not drive too long at a time. If it is a long journey, take frequent breaks, give your pet fresh water to drink and, if possible and your pet is willing, let it move around outside.
- Ventilate the passenger compartment. Remember to leave the rear window slightly open for air circulation, but not enough to allow the pet to lean out.
- Pay attention to protection and safety systems. Choose the most suitable system depending on your pet's characteristics. It is up to the owner to select the most appropriate solution based on their pet's needs.
- Never leave pets locked in a vehicle in the sun, not even for a short while.

Foreign drivers and penalties

FINES FOR FOREIGN MOTORISTS

When driving in Italy, foreign driving license or international driving permit* holders must comply with all Italian Highway Code rules. In case of infringement the same penalties as for the Italian drivers are enforced, regardless of whether or not a point system is adopted for driving license in their home country (Article 135 paragraph 4 of the Italian Highway Code).

Foreign drivers, caught by a traffic officer while committing a driving offence, are entitled to pay a 30% - reduced fine. The traffic officer will issue a receipt.

In case the fine is not fully paid on the spot, the traffic officer may require the payment of a security deposit, equal to half of the maximum fine amount requested by the Italian Highway Code for the infringement or the minimum fine amount for vehicles registered in EU/EEA countries. The traffic officer will give the offender a written report stating the amount paid.

In case the deposit is not fully paid, the vehicle is prohibited from circulating until full payment of the fine. The vehicle may be subject to administrative seizure for up to 60 days, and placed in the custody of a bailiff.

Italian authorities record all infringements committed by foreign motorists. The punishment for foreign drivers having built up 20 penalty points in 1-year time is a 2-year driving ban in Italy. In case they have built up 20 penalty points in 2-year time the punishment is a 1-year driving ban in Italy. In case they have built up 20 penalty points in a period from 2 to 3 years the punishment is a 6-month driving ban in Italy.

Holders of a foreign driving license valid in Italy are subject to the same penalty points system that applies to Italian drivers:

- if 20 points are lost within 1 year: 2-year ban from driving in Italy;
- if 20 points are lost within a 2-year period: 1-year ban from driving in Italy;
- if 20 points are lost within a period of 2 to 3 years: 6-month ban from driving in Italy.

The offences must have been committed while driving in Italy.

Main driving sanctions

For your information, please note the main sanctions under the Italian Highway Code for traffic violations:

- seat belts are compulsory for the driver and for all passengers on all vehicles, including quadricycles and micro cars. The driver, or the adult accompanying the minor, is responsible for compliance regarding the appropriate restraint system / child seat / seat belts. In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 172 paragraph 10 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- speed limits: in case of non-compliance, the sanctions** provided for in Article 172 paragraph 7, 8, 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code apply
- restricted Traffic Areas ("Zone a Traffico Limitato"): In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Highway Code apply
- drink-driving. The penalties*** provided for in Article 186 paragraph 2 letters a), b), and c) of the Italian Highway Code apply, depending on the blood alcohol level (driving ban or revocation of driving license). Drivers can also face up to one year in prison

- driving after taking a narcotic or psychotropic substance. The penalties provided for in Article 187 paragraph 1 et seq. of the Italian Highway Code apply, including driving ban or revocation of driving license****. Drivers can also face up to one year in prison

* International Driving Permits can be of the two following types:

- "Geneva Convention – 1949", valid for 1 year
- "Vienna Convention – 1968", valid for 3 years

Both types are valid provided that the associated national driving licenses are also valid.

While some countries accept both types, others accept only one of the two. Italy accepts both types.

**

- Anyone who exceeds the maximum speed limits by no more than 10 kilometres per hour is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 7, of the Italian Highway Code:
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limits by more than 10 km/h and by no more than 40 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 8, of the Italian Highway Code
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limits by more than 40 km/h and by no more than 60 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, Paragraph 9, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 1 to 3 months. Anyone who commits a further breach of Paragraph 9 within a period of two years is subject to driving ban from 8 to 18 months
- whoever exceeds the maximum speed limit by more than 60 km/h is subject to the fines provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9-bis, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 6 to 12 months. Anyone who commits a further breach of Paragraph 9-bis within a period of two years shall have their driving licence revoked
- the administrative fines provided for in Article 142 are increased by one-third when the breach is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code)
- if speed limit violations are committed using particular types of vehicles, the fines and accessory sanctions, if any, are doubled
- novice drivers (within the first 3 years of obtaining their driving licence) cannot exceed 100 Km/h. Offenders are subject to the fines provided for by Article 117, Paragraph 5, of the Italian Highway Code. The breach is followed by the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from 2 to 8 months.

*** Penalties for driving under the influence according to Art. 186, paragraph 2, letters a), b), and c) of the Italian Highway Code apply respectively when:

- Lett. a) a blood alcohol level higher than 0.5 and not exceeding 0.8 grams per litre (g/l) has been ascertained. The accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from three to six months also applies
- Lett. b) a blood alcohol level higher than 0.8 and not exceeding 1.5 g/l has been ascertained. Imprisonment up to six months and the accessory administrative sanction of driving ban from six months to one year also applies
- Lett. c) a blood alcohol level higher than 1.5 g/l has been ascertained. Imprisonment from six months to one year and driving ban from one to two years also applies. If the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence, the duration of the driving ban is doubled. The driving licence is always revoked in case of recurrence of the offence within two years. At the request of the parties, the confiscation of the vehicle with which the offence was committed is always ordered, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence.

If the driver under the influence causes a road accident, the penalties are doubled and the vehicle is subject to administrative seizure (*fermo amministrativo*) for 180 days, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence. If the driver who causes a road accident is found to have a blood alcohol level higher than 1.5 g/l, the driving licence is revoked, with certain exceptions.

**** If the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence, the duration of the driving ban is doubled. Sanctions increase and become more severe for novice drivers, young people up to 21 years of age and professional drivers. The licence is always revoked in the case of professional drivers or in case of recurrence of the offence within three years for other drivers. At the request of the parties, the confiscation of the vehicle with which the offence was committed is always ordered, unless the vehicle belongs to a person not involved in the offence.

If a driver in a psycho-physically altered state, after taking drugs or psychotropic substances, causes a road accident, the sanctions are doubled and, with a few exceptions, the licence is revoked.

Useful numbers and assistance services

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND SERVICES

112 is the Single European Emergency Number for all emergencies across Italy and the EU. It automatically identifies your location and connects you to the State Police, *Carabinieri* (National Military Police), Fire Brigade, or Medical Emergencies.

114 Social Services for Child Protection - Available 24/7 and free of charge. In addition to calling, you can get in touch via chat, app, or Whatsapp at +39 3487987845

117 Guardia di Finanza (Tax Police)

1515 Forest Rangers (*Carabinieri*): a toll-free emergency number, available 24/7, for the prompt reporting of forest fires and any other environmental emergencies

1518 Information on traffic and roads conditions (in Italian)

803.116 ACI Road Assistance and Information service - toll-free number available all year round, 24 hours a day, to anyone calling **from an Italian landline or mobile phone**.

800.116.800 ACI Road Assistance - toll-free number available all year round, 24 hours a day, to anyone calling **from a foreign mobile phone operator**.

339.99.43.116 Number reserved for hearing-impaired people to request ACI Road Assistance via SMS. The service is charged according to the customer's mobile provider's rates.

Luce Verde

Luceverde is a free service, available in 33 Italian cities, which provides real-time updates on traffic and public transport, as well as road and weather conditions.

<https://www.luceverde.it/>

The information is disseminated through local and national web, radio, and TV news bulletins, social media channels, and the 'Luceverde Radio' channel and app.

On-screen images highlight real-time traffic jams, detours, accidents, street protests and roadworks, helping to plan your itineraries.