

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

ALBANIA (South East Europe)

IMPORTANT – The Foreign & Commonwealth Office is advising against travel to some areas; contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their website at www.fco.gov.uk for latest information.

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18; recommended that this be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP)

Fines: On-the-spot.

Fuel: Leaded petrol (may be in short supply and when available low octane). Unleaded petrol not generally available. Petrol in can permitted (duty payable). Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards not accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Albania before travel.

Lights: Visiting motorists are advised to avoid night driving.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: No restriction on the age of front-seat passengers. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Recommended front-seat occupants wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 18–21mph (30–35 km/h), outside built-up areas 21–24 mph (35–40 km/h).

Special features: Temporarily importing and driving a vehicle in Albania is not recommended, as roads and driving standards are poor. If this is unavoidable it is recommended that visitors equip their vehicles with fire extinguisher, first-aid kit, spare bulbs and a warning triangle.

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ANDORRA (South West Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more penalties are severe.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: On-the-spot.

Fuel: Leaded (98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Gasoil) available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Andorra before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 10 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h).

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs and a warning triangle.

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AUSTRIA (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream between 0.05 per cent and 0.08 per cent a fine, more than 0.08 per cent a fine and/or driving ban for Austria.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may use temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (up to 50cc) 16, motorcycle (over 50cc) 18. NOTE UK driving licences that do not incorporate a photograph are only valid when accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.

Fines: On-the-spot; up to 36 Euros. Officer collecting the fine should issue official receipt. For higher fines the driver will be asked to pay a deposit.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards by larger filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Austria before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights must be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Compulsory to use dipped headlights during the day. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and 1.5 metres in height cannot travel as front or rear-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas up to 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 62mph (100km/h) and motorways up to 80mph (130km/h). Vehicles not capable of sustaining minimum speed of 37mph (60km/h) not permitted on motorways. Mopeds must not exceed 45km/h.

Special features: Warning triangle that conforms to EC regulation 27 and first-aid kit compulsory. All vehicles using Austrian motorways and expressways must display motorway tax sticker (vignette). The stickers, valid for one calendar year, two calendar months or 10 days, may be purchased at many petrol stations located close to the border in neighbouring countries and in Austria, at the frontier or in ÖAMTC offices. Tolls are also payable when passing through certain motorway tunnels. Fine for driving without a motorway sticker can be severe. The use of the horn is generally prohibited in Vienna and in the vicinity of hospitals.

+STOP PRESS From 1 May 2005 every car driver has to carry the reflectorised jacket/waistcoat which has to be used in the case of a breakdown or accident and even when setting up a warning triangle on the road. (see also [General Information](#)).

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BELARUS (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a visitor may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18. National Driving Licences, which bear the photo of the holder, are recognised but an International Driving Permit is recommended.

Fines: Payable on-the-spot or to bank; driving licence presented to State Auto Inspection.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (76, 92, & 95 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in can permitted in metal container (must be declared on entry). Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at big filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Belarus before travel.

Lights: Avoid night driving – poor road information between small towns.

Motorcycles: Temporary importation of motorcycles permitted. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory. Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory. Short term insurance available at the border.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted. See also [General Information](#).

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and up to 68mph (110 km/h) on different sections of the Brest-Moscow motorway. NOTE All motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: A road tax is payable at the frontier. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. Against the law to drive a dirty car. Advisable to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure. All foreign visitors are required to purchase health insurance on arrival.

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BELGIUM (Western Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream between 0.05 per cent and 0.08 per cent on-the-spot fine up to EUR 137 and surrender of driving licence for 3 hours; if police prosecution fine up to EUR 2,750. More than 0.08 per cent, fine up to EUR 550 and surrender of driving licence for 6 hours; if police prosecution (more than 0.15 per cent) fine up to EUR 11,000, licence suspension up to 5 years.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK driving licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. The officer collecting the fine must issue an official receipt showing the amount of the fine. NOTE motorists can refuse to pay an on-the-spot fine; a foreign motorist refusing to do so may be invited to make a surety payment and if he does not his vehicle will be impounded, by the police & permanently confiscated if the deposit is not paid within 96 hrs.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (anti-wear additive available). Petrol in can permitted, but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Belgium before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility. Front and rear lights (or parking lights) to be used for parked vehicles when visibility reduced to less than 200 metres (219 yds) or at night when public lighting does not make vehicle visible from 100 metres (109yds).

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 3 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable child restraint system. Child under 3 in rear must use restraint if suitable restraint system available. Child over 3 and under 12 seated in front or rear must use seat belt or child restraint appropriate to the size and weight of the child. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas up to 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and on motorways and dual carriageways separated by a central reservation 74mph (120km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Traffic on roundabout must give way to traffic coming from right, unless indicated otherwise by road signs. A new road sign has been introduced banning the use of cruise control on congested motorways and can also appear during motorway roadworks. Some signs will apply to vehicles over a certain weight which will be specified on the sign should this be relevant. For non-compliance, if caught, a fine will be imposed, from 50–1375 Euros.

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BOSNIA HERZEGOVINA (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot or, for more serious violations, sentence by local court. An official receipt should be obtained.

Fuel: Leaded (98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Dizel) available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at a few filling stations in the Sarajevo area; check with your card issuer for usage in Bosnia Herzegovina before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory in the southwest; elsewhere dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory in the southwest; elsewhere use dipped headlights outside built-up areas. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: A person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60 km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways.

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory (two triangles required if towing trailer). The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Bosnia Herzegovina and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving.

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BULGARIA (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more the driver will be prosecuted.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK driving licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18. NOTE UK driving licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained.

Fuel: Leaded petrol is no longer available and unleaded petrol (92, 95 and 98 octane) available. Forbidden to carry petrol in can in a vehicle. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at Shell and OMV filling stations but not all local stations accept international cards; check with your card issuer for usage in Bulgaria before travel. Motorists should not use the "red" pumps at the petrol stations as these are for service vehicles only.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Motorcyclists must have their lights on at all times.

Motor insurance: Green Cards recognised. Short term insurance is available at the border.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory, for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 74mph (120km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: Fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. In built up areas it is prohibited to use the horn between 2200hrs and 0600 hrs (0900hrs on public holidays), and between 1200hrs and 1600hrs. Visiting motorists are required to pay a sanitary tax, (approx) 4 Euros on entry, and also purchase a "vignette" (road tax). Motorway tolls are payable in addition to the vignette. The vignette is available at the border, UAB offices, some petrol stations and offices of the DZI Bank, weekly, monthly or annually. Heavy fines are imposed for non-compliance.

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CROATIA (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Fines: The police officer will impose fine on-the-spot, who will issue a ticket and the fine must be paid within 8 days at a post office or bank. The police may hold passport until evidence of payment is produced.

Fuel: Leaded (98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Forbidden to carry petrol in can in a vehicle. Diesel (Dizel) available and, in some larger towns, LPG. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Croatia before travel.

Lights: Driving with dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 cannot travel as passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90 km/h) but 68mph (110km/h) on expressways and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h). NOTE All motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 49mph (80km/h) on normal roads outside built-up areas, 62mph (100km/h) on expressways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways.

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs and a towrope or towbar. First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory (two triangles required if towing trailer). During winter months, especially in the Gorski Kotar and Lika regions, use of snow chains compulsory. The use of spiked tyres is prohibited. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Croatia and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving the country.

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CYPRUS (Republic of) (Eastern Mediterranean)

Drinking and driving: The maximum legal level of alcohol in the blood is 0.09%

Driving licence: All national driving licences accepted. Minimum age for driving temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: The Cyprus Traffic Police are empowered to impose on-the-spot fines for traffic offences.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Forbidden to carry petrol in a can in a vehicle. Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Cyprus before travel.

Lights: Vehicle lights must be used between half-hour after sunset and half-hour before sunrise. Spotlights are prohibited.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 5 cannot travel as front-seat passenger; child over 5 and under 10 must use suitable child restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Petrol: Forbidden to carry petrol in a can in a vehicle. Payment cards (credit/charge/debit) accepted at most petrol stations. Both leaded and unleaded petrol available

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) and 62mph (100km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 40mph (65km/h).

Special features: Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right. Two warning triangles compulsory. Use of vehicle horn prohibited between 22.00–06.00hrs and in the vicinity of hospitals.

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CYPRUS (Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) (Eastern Mediterranean)

Drinking and driving: 080 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of drivers' blood permitted, provided they are capable to drive.

Driving licence: UK licence acceptable. Minimum age for driving temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

Fines: No on-the-spot fines.

Fuel: Leaded (98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel (Mazot) available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Cyprus before travel.

Lights: Vehicle lights must be used between half-hour after sunset and half-hour before sunrise.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. Green Card not accepted. Short term insurance may be purchased at the port of arrival.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 5 cannot travel as front-seat passenger; child over 5 and under 10 must use suitable child restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 43mph (70km/h) or 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right. Two warning triangles compulsory. Road signs predominately English.

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CZECH REPUBLIC (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. If there is no accident, offenders will receive an on the spot fine of 2,000 CZK. In the case of an accident, either up to a 15000 CZK fine and/or prison sentence for offenders.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (exceeding 50cc) 17. Photocard licences are accepted for a maximum of 90 days. Older all-green style UK licences may be more difficult to understand and drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, older licences must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit.

Fines: On-the-spot up to CZK5000. An official receipt should be obtained.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (91, 95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol available as 91 octane). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Nafta) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Czech Republic before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory in winter (end of Oct to end of Mar) (see also [motorcycles](#) below). Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory throughout the year. Wearing of a crash helmets and goggles compulsory for driver and passenger when riding machine over 50cc capable of speeds over 24mph (40km/h). Forbidden for motorcyclists to smoke while riding their machine.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system; any person under 18 smaller than 1.5 metres travelling in front or rear must use suitable restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways (for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg and buses) 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. Visitors must also equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. Motorway tax payable for use of motorways and express roads. A windscreen sticker must be displayed on all four wheeled vehicles as evidence of payment. Sticker purchased at the Czech frontier, UAMK branch offices, petrol stations or post offices for periods of one year, one month or 10 days (one day sticker available but only for vehicles over 12 tonnes). Fines imposed for non-display. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering the Czech Republic. If any damage occurs inside the country a police report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

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DENMARK (Northern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more severe penalties include licence suspension, fines or imprisonment depending on the amount of excess.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

Fines: On-the-spot. Visitors who infringe traffic regulations can expect to be fined.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (92, 95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute petrol available as 98 octane). Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Denmark before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets with straps compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 3 in front or rear must be seated in a child-restraint system appropriate to size; over 3 may use a child restraint instead of seat belts, or seat belts combined with booster cushion may be used if appropriate. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 68mph (110km/h) or 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a fire extinguisher and first-aid kit. Generally there is a duty to give way to traffic approaching from the right. A line of white triangles (shark's teeth) painted across the road indicates that you must stop and give way to traffic on the road you are entering. When roads are wet or slushy, speed must be reduced as far as possible to prevent other road users from being splashed.

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ESTONIA (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Breath Tests are frequent in Estonia.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: The police officer will impose fine on-the-spot and provide details of official bank account into which fine must be paid within 15 days. The Police control speeds closely and will give fines for even the smallest speeding offences. Illegally parked cars will be clamped.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Estonia before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child too small to wear seat belt must travel in special child seat. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but up to 74mph (120km/h) on some roads during the summer months. NOTE visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h) outside built-up areas.

Special features: First-aid kit, fire extinguisher, wheel chocks, winter tyres (compulsory between Dec–Feb, and only permitted between 1 Oct and 1 May) and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) is also carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas outside Estonia. The border police may ask visitors for proof of sufficient personal insurance cover on entry.

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FINLAND (Northern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream between 0.05 per cent and 0.12 per cent fine or imprisonment and withdrawal of driving licence, over 0.12 per cent imprisonment and withdrawal of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (not exceeding 125cc) 16, (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Fines: Police may impose but not collect on-the-spot fines for parking and other minor infringements. Fine payable at a Bank within 2 weeks.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol available. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Finland before travel.

Lights: All motor vehicles must use their headlights in and outside built up areas at all times throughout the year.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Drivers and passengers of mopeds or motorcycles over 50cc, who must be over 15 or over, must wear a crash helmet.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and 1.5 metres in height must be seated in an approved child restraint system. Child under 3 must be seated in the rear in child seat or using normal seat belts if no child seat available. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. Inside built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 62mph (100km/h), according to the quality of road, with 49mph (80km/h) being the upper limit where there are no signs, on motorways 74mph (120km/h). No minimum speed on motorways. Temporary speed limits may be enforced on some or all roads by the local road districts.

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Winter tyres, marked m&s on the sidewall, compulsory between 1 December and end of February. Beware game (elk, reindeer, etc) as this constitutes a very real danger on some roads.

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FRANCE AND MONACO (Western Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more (0.02% for bus/coach drivers), severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or confiscation of driving licence. Saliva drug tests will be used from 2005 to detect drivers under the influence of drugs – severe penalties as above.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (up to 80cc) 16, motorcycle (over 80cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot fines or 'deposits' are severe. An official receipt should be issued. Vehicles parking contrary to regulations may be towed away and impounded.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol "Super ARS" available or lead substitute additive). Petrol in can permitted but forbidden by ferry and motorail operators. Diesel (Gazole) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in France & Monaco before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights must be used in poor daytime visibility. Additionally, as of 31 October 2004 it is highly recommended by the French Government that dipped headlights are used by 4+ wheeled vehicles outside built up areas day and night (already compulsory for motorcycles).

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory for motorcycles. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger of any two-wheel motorised vehicle.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 10 cannot travel as front-seat passenger with the exception of baby – up to 9 months and less than 9kg – in rear facing seat. Child under 10 in rear must use restraint system appropriate to weight (between 9–15kg child seat, over 15kg booster seat in conjunction with normal seat belts). A child must not be placed at the front with their back to the road if the vehicle is fitted with a passenger airbag. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h), but 68mph (110km/h) on dual carriageways separated by a central reservation and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Lower speed limits of 49mph (80km/h) outside built-up areas, 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways apply in **wet weather** and to visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than **two** years. Additionally, speed limits are reduced on stretches of motorways in built up areas. Minimum speed limit on motorways 49mph (80km/h).

NOTE Holders of EU driving licences exceeding speed limit by more than 40km/h will have their licences confiscated on-the-spot by the police.

Special features: Warning triangle or hazard warning lights compulsory (recommended that warning triangle always be carried). Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. In built-up areas give way to traffic coming from the right "priorité à

droite". At signed roundabouts bearing the words "Vous n'avez pas la priorité" or "Cédez le passage" traffic on the roundabout has priority; where no such sign exists traffic entering the roundabout has priority.

It is absolutely prohibited to carry, transport or use radar detectors. The detector will be confiscated, a heavy deposit toward fine imposed, followed by a court summons, with the possible risk of the confiscation of the vehicle.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

GERMANY (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more penalties include fines and the licence holder can be banned from driving in Germany.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: On-the-spot fine or deposit. Motorists can be fined for such things as exceeding speed limits, using abusive language, making derogatory signs and running out of petrol on a motorway.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (91, 95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Germany before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights must be used during daylight hours if fog, snow or rain restrict visibility. Driving with sidelights (parking lights) alone is not allowed. Vehicles must have their lights on in tunnels.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and/or 1.5 metres in height cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passenger unless using suitable child restraint system. They may travel on rear seats without restraint in cases where all restraints are already in use. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 62mph (100km/h) and on dual carriageways and motorways a recommended maximum of 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h). Different speed limits apply in bad weather conditions.

Special features: It is not compulsory for visiting UK motorists to carry a warning triangle, but they are strongly advised to do so, as its use is compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs. Slow moving vehicles must stop at suitable places and let others pass. It is prohibited to overtake or pass a school bus that has stopped in a built up area to let passengers on/off.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

GIBRALTAR (South West Europe)

Drinking and driving: Maximum level of alcohol in bloodstream is 80milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood or 35 microgrammes of alcohol on 100 millilitres of breath.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: No on-the-spot fines, except when a vehicle is clamped or towed away.

Fuel: Leaded (95 octane) and unleaded petrol (97 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted on payment of duty (purpose made steel container). Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Gibraltar before travel.

Lights: The use of full headlights is prohibited; dipped headlights only during the hours of darkness.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory (British motorists may if they wish produce a British certificate of motor insurance).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 4 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system; child under 4 in rear must use suitable restraint system if available. Children between 4 and 17 must use seat belts or restraint system appropriate to size when travelling as front-/rear-seat passenger.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: The standard legal limits for cars and motorcycles within the City of Gibraltar is 18mph (30km/h) and outside the City 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle not compulsory. The use of car horn is not permitted within the City limits. The Spanish–Gibraltar frontier at La Linea is open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic of all nationalities.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

GREECE (Southern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more this is a criminal offence. A lower unit of 0.02% applies to drivers who have held a licence for less than 2 years and to motorcyclists.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 50cc) 17.

Fines: Police can impose fines but not collect them on-the-spot. The fine must be paid at a Public Treasury office within 10 days. You can be fined for the unnecessary use of car horn. Vehicles may be towed away if parked illegally, or violating traffic regulations.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 100 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol available as Super 2002 98 octane). Forbidden to carry petrol in a can in a vehicle. Diesel (Petreleo) available. LPG may not be used in private cars or in taxis. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Greece before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility. The use of undipped headlights in towns is strictly prohibited.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day recommended. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h) for cars, 24mph (40km/h) for motorcycles; outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) for cars, 43mph (70km/h) for motorcycles; motorways 74mph (120km/h) for cars and 55mph (90km/h) for motorcycles.

Special features: Fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. The police are empowered to confiscate the number plates of illegally parked vehicles throughout Greece. Generally this only applies to Greek registered vehicles, but the drivers of foreign registered vehicles should beware parking illegally.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

HUNGARY (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood; amounts of less than 0.08 per cent incur a fine, more than 0.08 per cent legal proceedings.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK driving licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Hungary. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. Credit cards not accepted. Police may tow away a vehicle violating traffic regulations.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Forbidden to carry petrol in can in a vehicle. Diesel (Dizel or Gazolaj) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Hungary before travel. Cash is the most usual form of payment.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times outside built-up areas. At night the use of full beam, in built up areas, is prohibited.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights compulsory at all times. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 1.5 metres in height using suitable restraint system permitted to travel as front-seat passenger provided there is no airbag for that seat; child under 12 and/or less than 1.5 metres seated in the rear must use suitable restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front and, outside built-up areas, rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) on semi-motorways and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h). Vehicles with snow chains must not exceed 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that the driver of a conspicuously damaged vehicle entering Hungary obtains a police report confirming the damage at the time of entry, otherwise lengthy delays may be encountered at the frontier when leaving Hungary. Motorway tax payable for use of M1 (Budapest–Hegyeshalom), M3 (Budapest–Polgar), M5 (Budapest–Kiskunfelegyhaza) and M7 (Budapest–Lake Balaton). A windscreen sticker must be displayed as evidence of payment. Sticker may be purchased only in Hungarian Forints from MAK office, large petrol stations near motorways and the offices of motorway companies – available for 4 days (vehicles up to 3.5t only), 10 days, one month or one year. Fines imposed for non-display.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

ICELAND (North Atlantic)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more severe penalties include the withdrawal of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 50cc) 17.

Fines: On-the-spot fines may be imposed by the traffic police but, as a rule, they are not allowed to accept payment; this must be made at a police station or the police officer will provide details of the official bank account into which the fine must be paid.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute petrol available as 98 octane). Forbidden to import fuel in spare can. Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Iceland before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Children must be secured by either safety seats or safety belts. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) on gravel roads and 55mph (90km/h) on asphalt roads.

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and set of replacement bulbs. Vehicles registered abroad and powered by fuel other than petrol, are liable for a weight tax for each week they are in Iceland.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

IRELAND (Republic of) (Western Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine and/or imprisonment plus disqualification.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car or motorcycle (exceeding 150cc) 17.

Fines: On-the-spot fines for parking and speeding offences.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Lead replacement petrol and LPG are extremely limited in Ireland. Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Ireland before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 30mph, outside built-up areas 60mph and 70mph on motorways. No minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: Rule of the road is drive on the left; overtake on the right. Warning triangle compulsory for vehicles with an unladen weight exceeding 1,524kg (1.5tons). Horns must not be used between 2330hrs & 0700hrs.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

ITALY AND SAN MARINO (Southern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines, confiscation of vehicle and imprisonment.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 125cc or with passenger) 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Italy. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. Particularly heavy for speeding offences. The police can impose the fine and collect 1 quarter of the maximum fine, and must give a receipt for the amount of the fine paid.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Gasolio) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations along most major auto routes and in major towns; check with your card issuer for usage in Italy & San Marino before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory outside built-up areas. Dipped headlights compulsory when passing through tunnels irrespective of length or lighting. Rear fog lights may only be used when visibility is less than 50 metres.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory on all roads. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Children age 3 or under cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. Child between four and 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. Where no restraint system is available they must travel on the rear seats accompanied by a passenger over 16 years of age. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) on ordinary roads, 68mph (110km/h) on dual carriageways and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways; a speed limit of 93 mph (150 km/h) is planned for some three-lane plus emergency lane motorways. **NOTE** in wet weather lower speed limits of 55mph (90km/h) apply on dual carriageways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways. Restrictions apply if vehicles are using spiked tyres.

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicles with a set of replacement bulbs. Motorcycles under 150cc are not allowed on motorways. Third-party compulsory for motorboats used in Italian waters (an Italian translation of the insurance certificate **must** be carried). Any vehicle with overhanging load (e.g. carrying bicycle at rear) must display reflectorised square panel.

+STOP PRESS The wearing of reflectorised jacket/waistcoat compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway at night or in poor visibility (see also General Information).

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

LATVIA (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more penalties are severe.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 125cc) 18.

Fines: The police can issue and collect fines on the spot and not only on the road. Police control speeds closely and gives fines to even the smallest of speeding offences.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in can permitted (duty payable). Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Latvia before travel. Cash payments only accepted in local currency.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 1.5 metres in height must use restraint system appropriate to size and weight. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or, where indicated, 62mph (100km/h). NOTE visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Winter tyres compulsory from 1 December to 1 March. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

LITHUANIA (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.04 per cent or more severe penalties include fine (290-435 Euros) and/or withdrawal of driving licence (from 1-6 years).

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18. NOTE UK licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.

Fines: On-the-spot.

Fuel: Leaded available at Statoil petrol stations and unleaded petrol (92, & 95 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted (duty payable). Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Lithuania before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory from 1 November to the 1 March.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 cannot travel as passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory, but fully comprehensive recommended. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using child restraint appropriate to age and size. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and on dual carriageways 68mph (110km/h). NOTE In summer time a limit of 80mph (130km/h) applies on the dual carriageways between (i) Vilnius – Panevezys and (ii) Kaunas – Klaipeda. The police control speeds closely and give fines for even the smallest of speeding offences.

Special features: First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) is also carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas. Winter tyres are compulsory on cars from 1 November to 1 April.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

LUXEMBOURG (Western Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.08 per cent or more severe penalties include fines and/or prison.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

Fines: On-the-spot. Unauthorised parking can result in the car being impounded.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Forbidden to carry petrol in a can in a vehicle. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Luxembourg before travel.

Lights: Sidelights required when parking where no public lighting. When visibility is reduced to under 100 metres due to fog, snow, heavy rain etc, dipped headlights must be used. Compulsory to flash headlights at night when overtaking outside built-up areas.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 not permitted as passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and/or 1.5 metres in height cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system appropriate to size. In rear child under 3 must be seated in suitable restraint system and child over 3 must wear normal seat belt in absence of child seat, but permitted to wear only abdominal part of belt if under 1.5 metres. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 74mph (120km/h) but reduced to 68mph (110km/h) during wet weather. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h). NOTE Visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than one year must not exceed 46mph (75km/h). Special speed limits apply to vehicles with spiked tyres.

Special features: Any vehicle immobilised on the motorway must use a warning signal, either a warning triangle or a flashing light at the rear. Cars that cause an obstruction may be removed and impounded.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

MACEDONIA (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. Police can impound a vehicle which is wrongly parked and can detain a vehicle with worn tyres.

Fuel: Leaded (96 octane) and unleaded petrol (90 & 95 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Macedonia before travel. Usually payment can only be made in local currency.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Green Card accepted, third party insurance compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: A child under 12 is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 74mph (120km/h) motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory (two triangles required if towing trailer). A person visibly under the influence of alcohol is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Macedonia and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving. A certificate must also be obtained if the damage occurs whilst in Macedonia. From 15 Nov to 15 Mar all motor vehicles must be equipped with snow equipment. Either snow chains must be carried or the vehicle fitted with either snow tyres on the driving wheels or radial tyres on all the wheels.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

MALTA (Mediterranean)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.08 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine or imprisonment.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: No on-the-spot fines but if any motoring or parking offence is committed, for which a fine is payable, this may be settled prior to departure.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel available but not LPG. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Malta before travel.

Lights: Spotlights are prohibited.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 3 cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. Children between 3 and 10 under 1.5m in height travelling in front or rear must use adult seat belts and/or restraint system as appropriate. Children between 11 and 14 (or younger if over 1.5m in height) travelling in front or rear must use adult seat belts.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h).

Special features: Rule of the road is drive on the left, overtake on the right. Warning triangle recommended, as it must be used to warn other road users of obstructions or accidents. NOTE private motor vehicles may be temporarily imported under cover of a temporary import permit valid for three months, issued on entry. The use of the horn is not permitted in inhabited areas between 2300hrs & 0600hrs.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

MOLDOVA (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: Current information suggests that only 1968 International Driving Permit (IDP) is acceptable, not 1926 or 1949. Visiting motorists may need a certified Moldovan translation of their UK licence. Contact the Embassy of the Republic of Moldova, 54 Rue Tenbosch, 1050 Brussels, Belgium (Tel: 00 32 2 732 96 59) for guidance. Minimum age at which a visitor may drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: Usually on-the-spot, but not always.

Fuel: Leaded petrol available (may be in short supply) unleaded petrol not generally available. Petrol in one can permitted (duty payable). Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations in larger cities e.g. Chisinau (Interforma); check with your card issuer for usage in Moldova before travel.

Lights: Visiting motorists are advised to avoid night driving between towns.

Motorcycles: Temporary importation of motorcycles permitted. Crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Card accepted, third party compulsory, but fully comprehensive recommended, including theft protection.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h).

Special features: A road and ecological tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles also be carried. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. Necessary to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

NETHERLANDS (Western Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, withdrawal of driving licence and imprisonment.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. In the case of illegal parking the police can impose on the spot fines or tow the vehicle away.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute petrol available as Super 98 octane). Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Netherlands before travel.

Lights: Undipped headlights cannot be used during the day and when their use inconveniences other traffic or pedestrians. Sidelights only prohibited. At night it is prohibited to drive with only sidelights.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/Children in cars: Child under 12 and/or 1.5 metres* in height cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. Children under 12 in the rear must be secured by a safety system suitable for their size. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) and motorways 74mph (120km/h). No minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: Warning triangle or hazard warning lights must be used in case of accident or breakdown (recommended that warning triangle always be carried). Buses have right of way when leaving bus-stops in built-up areas. Trams have right of way except when crossing a priority road. Beware large numbers of cyclists and skaters. Spiked tyres are prohibited.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

NORWAY (Northern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream exceeds 0.02 per cent severe penalties include heavy fines and/or prison, also surrender of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

Fines: On-the-spot for infringement of traffic regulations.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted but forbidden aboard ferries. Diesel available but limited LPG availability. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Norway before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 4 cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passenger unless seated in a special restraint system (baby/child seats may be hired in the Oslo area – information available from the Norwegian Automobile Club in Oslo, telephone 22 34 14 00). Children over 4 must use a special restraint system or a seat belt. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) and 55mph (90km/h) on motorways.

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first-aid kit, fire extinguisher and set of replacement bulbs. In addition to some road, bridge and tunnel tolls, city tolls are payable by motorists entering Bergen, Kristiansand, Oslo, Stavanger, Tonsberg and Trondheim. Between November and April, cars and heavy vehicles with spiked tyres will be charged a fee by the municipalities of Oslo and Trondheim. The stickers are available to purchase daily, monthly or yearly.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

POLAND (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: The maximum level of alcohol in bloodstream is 0.02 per cent. Between 0.02% and 0.05% per cent a heavy fine and suspension of licence. Over 0.05% the fine is determined by a tribunal along with a prison sentence and suspension of licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 125cc). All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Poland. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices®. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. The Police are authorised to request foreign motorists pay their fines in cash.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (95 octane petrol with lead replacement additive available). Forbidden to carry petrol in can in a vehicle. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Poland before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility. Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory from 1 October to end of February.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory outside built-up areas. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and 1.5 metres in height cannot travel as front- or rear-seat passenger unless using suitable restraint system. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h) from 2300hrs to 0500hrs and 31mph (50km/h) from 0500hrs to 2300hrs, outside built-up areas 55mph (90 km/h), on express roads (2 x 1 lanes) 62mph (100km/h) or (2 x 2 lanes) 68mph (110km/h) and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h). Some residential zones are 13mph (20km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle and fire extinguisher compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with a first aid kit and a set of replacement bulbs. The use of spiked tyres is prohibited. It is prohibited to carry or/and use a radar detector.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

PORTUGAL (South West Europe)

IMPORTANT - It is a legal requirement in Portugal that everyone carries photographic proof of identity at all times.

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream from 0.05 per cent to 0.08 per cent, fine and withdrawal of driving licence for a minimum of one month to a maximum of one year; more than 0.08 per cent, fine and withdrawal of driving licence for a minimum of two months up to a maximum of two years.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 50cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt showing the maximum amount of the fine should be obtained. NOTE foreign motorists refusing to pay an on-the-spot fine will be asked for a deposit to cover the maximum fine for the offence committed. If a motorist refuses to do this, the police can take the driving licence, registration document or failing that they can confiscate the vehicle.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead replacement petrol available as 98 octane). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel available but limited LPG availability. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Portugal before travel. NOTE A tax of EUR 0.50 is added to credit card transactions.

Lights: Dipped headlights in poor daytime visibility, in tunnels and on the main road linking Aveiro-Vilar Formoso at the Spanish frontier (IP5).

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory. Child under 7 not permitted as passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Children under 12 and less than 1.50 metres in height cannot travel as front-seat passengers. They must travel in the rear in a special restraint system adapted to their size, unless the vehicle has only two seats, or is not fitted with seat belts. The airbag must be switched off if using a rear-facing child-restraint system. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) or 62mph (100km/h) and on motorways 74mph (120km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 31mph (50km/h). NOTE All motorists who have held a driving licence for less than one year must not exceed 55mph (90km/h) or any lower speed limit.

Special features: Warning triangle required in the case of hazard light failure as you must have means to signal warning to other drivers in the event of a breakdown. It is prohibited to carry and/or use a radar detector. Spiked tyres are prohibited.

+STOP PRESS From January 2005 the wearing of reflectorised jacket/waistcoat compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways and main or busy roads.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

ROMANIA (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Driving Licence can be suspended for a maximum of 90 days or Prison sentence for offenders.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (for up to 90 days) 18. NOTE UK driving licences that do not incorporate a photograph must be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: Police can impose fines but not collect them on-the-spot.

Fuel: Leaded and unleaded petrol widely available. Petrol in can permitted (must be empty when leaving Romania). Diesel available but limited LPG availability. Tax payable on petrol/diesel in vehicle tank when leaving Romania. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations but not widespread; check with your card issuer for usage in Romania before travel. Payment is usually made in local currency.

Lights: Forbidden to drive at night if vehicle lighting faulty. Additional headlamps prohibited.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for driver and passenger of machines 50cc and over.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways. No minimum speed on motorways.

Special features: Fire extinguisher recommended and first-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. Against the law to drive a dirty car. Any visible damage to a vehicle entering Romania must be certified by the authorities at the frontier. If any damage occurs inside the country a report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence. The use of the horn is prohibited between 2200hrs & 0600hrs. Spiked tyres prohibited.

NOTE: As of 1 January 2005, a new road tax has been introduced for both residents and visitors. These are available from Petrol Stations and Post Offices in Romania. It is called a "rovinieta". The cost depends on vehicle type, emissions category and period of use in Romania. Motorcycles are not required to pay this tax.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

RUSSIAN FEDERATION (Eastern Europe)

IMPORTANT – The Foreign & Commonwealth Office is advising against travel to some areas; contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their website at www.fco.gov.uk for latest information.

Drinking and driving: Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited.

Driving licence: An International Driving Permit (IDP) is compulsory for the holder of any type of UK driving licence. Minimum age at which a visitor may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: Usually on-the-spot, but not always.

Fuel: Leaded petrol (may be in short supply and when available low octane). Unleaded petrol (92, 95 octane) is available, but advisable to keep tank topped up whenever possible. Import of fuel in can not permitted permitted but once there its recommended to carry spare fuel. Diesel (Solyarka) and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at some filling stations but not widespread; check with your card issuer for usage in Russian Federation before travel.

Lights: Visiting motorists are advised to avoid night driving between towns.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory. Child under 12 not permitted as passenger. Motorcycles must use dipped headlights at all times.

Motor insurance: Third-party insurance compulsory (advisable to arrange cover before departure). Fully comprehensive insurance recommended. Green Card not accepted.

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger unless using restraint system appropriate to size. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but 68mph (110km/h) on expressways. NOTE Visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h). In some residential zones 13mph (20km/h) as signposted.

Special features: A road tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles also be carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. Against the law to drive a dirty car. Use of horn in towns is prohibited. It is forbidden to pick up hitchhikers. Necessary to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, Union of (South East Europe)

IMPORTANT - Contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit their website at www.fco.gov.uk for latest information.

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or suspension of driving licence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. Fines vary according to the gravity of the offence. Penalties are higher if the motorist endangers other people or cause an accident.

Fuel: Leaded (95 & 98 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted (duty payable). Diesel (Dizel) and LPG available. Credit cards not generally accepted; check with your card issuer for usage in Serbia and Montenegro before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory outside built-up areas. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory, but **not** accepted in Kosovo where compulsory third-party insurance must be obtained on arrival at the border

Passengers/children in cars: A person visibly under the influence of alcohol or child under 12 is not permitted to travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on dual carriageways and 74mph (120km/h) on motorway. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicle with a set of replacement bulbs. First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory (two triangles required if towing trailer). Tolls are payable on most sections of motorway. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Serbia and Montenegro and a certificate obtained; this must be produced when leaving. Spiked tyres are prohibited.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SLOVAKIA (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Penalties include, fine, withdrawal of licence and imprisonment.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (exceeding 50cc) 17.

Fines: On-the-spot (up to 500SKK). An official receipt should be obtained.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (91, 95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Nafta) and LPG available. LPG can only be used for road vehicles on the condition that the equipment for its combustion is covered by a safety certificate. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Slovakia before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory from 15 October to 15 March. Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of a crash helmet compulsory when riding machine over 50cc. Forbidden for motorcyclists to smoke while riding their machine.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: No person under 1.5 metres in height or child under 12 may travel in a vehicle as a front-seat passenger. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas including dual carriageways for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg 55mph (90km/h) and motorways 80mph (130km/h). Minimum speed on motorways 31mph (50km/h).

Special features: First-aid kit and warning triangle compulsory. Visitors must also equip their vehicles with a set of replacement bulbs. Motorway tax payable for use of certain highways and motorways. A windscreen sticker must be displayed on all vehicles except motorcycles as evidence of payment. Stickers may be purchased at border crossings and from selected filling stations and post offices for periods of one year or 15 days. Fines are imposed for non-display. The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Slovakia. If any damage occurs inside the country a police report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence. Spiked tyres prohibited.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SLOVENIA (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine, imprisonment and/or suspension of driving licence. The driver can still be fined for levels under 0.05% if the driver is unable to drive safely. These rules also apply to narcotics.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (exceeding 125cc) 18. An International Driving Permit (1949) is recommended for holders of UK Driving Licences.

Fines: On-the-spot. Must be paid in local currency. Refusal to pay could result in your passport being held. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed away or clamped.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel and LPG available. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Slovenia before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Child under 12 not permitted as passenger.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 and smaller than 1.5 metres are not allowed to travel in the front-seat and must use suitable restraint system. Children over 12 may wear normal seat belts. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) but 62mph (100km/h) on "fast roads" (dual carriageways) and 80mph (130km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory (two triangles required if towing trailer); warning triangle and/or hazard warning lights must be used in an accident/Breakdown situation. At night if hazard lights fail, in addition to a warning triangle a yellow flashing light must mark the vehicle. Fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and set of replacement bulbs recommended. Foreign drivers involved in an accident must call the police and obtain a written report. On leaving the country, damaged vehicles must be accompanied by this report, as Customs will ask to see it, to allow exit.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SPAIN (South West Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more severe penalties include fines and withdrawal of visitor's driving licence. Drivers with less than 2 years experience 0.03%.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle (over 75cc) 18. All valid UK driving licences should be accepted in Spain. This includes the older all-green style UK licences (in Northern Ireland older paper style with photographic counterpart) although the EC appreciates that these may be more difficult to understand and that drivers may wish to voluntarily update them before travelling abroad, if time permits. Application form D1 (in Northern Ireland DL1) is available from most Post Offices. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an International Driving Permit (IDP).

Fines: On-the-spot. An official receipt should be obtained. Illegally parked vehicles can be towed away.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Gasoleo 'A' or Gas-oil) available NOTE Gasoleo 'B' is heating oil only. LPG is available under the name of "Autogas", but there are only a few sales outlets at present. For locations please see map on website at www.repsolypf.com Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Spain before travel.

Lights: The use of full headlights in built-up areas is prohibited; use sidelights or dipped headlights depending on how well lit the roads are. Dipped headlights must be used in tunnels.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for riders over motorcycles 125cc and over.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 3 must use restraint system appropriate to size. Children between 3 and 12 should use a restraint suitable to their size however, in the absence of such restraint must use adult seat belts on the rear seats. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) on 2nd category roads, 62mph (100km/h) on 1st category roads and 74mph (120km/h) on motorways. Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h). Some residential zones are 13mph (20kph)

Special features: Compulsory for visitors to equip their vehicles with a set of replacement bulbs and a warning triangle (one warning triangle compulsory for foreign registered vehicles; two recommended as, in an accident/breakdown situation, local officials may impose fine if only one produced). A Bail Bond is no longer a legal requirement and many insurance companies have stopped issuing them. A driver who wears glasses should carry a spare pair with them. Apparatus with a screen which can distract a driver (such as television, video, DVD

equipment) are prohibited. This excludes GPS systems. The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

+STOP PRESS From 24 July 2004 the wearing of reflectorised jacket/waistcoat compulsory if driver and/or passenger(s) exits vehicle which is immobilised on the carriageway of all motorways and main or busy roads. Be aware however that car-hire companies are not under legal obligation to supply them to persons hiring vehicles, so often don't. (See also [General Information](#)).

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SWEDEN (Northern Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.02 per cent or more severe penalties include fines and/or prison.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle 17. NOTE UK driving licences which do not incorporate a photograph will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.

Fines: Police can impose but not collect fines on-the-spot. Illegally parked vehicles may be towed away.

Fuel: Unleaded (95, 96 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted (duty + vat payable). Diesel available. LPG limited availability. Credit cards accepted at filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Sweden before travel. There are no petrol stations on the motorways as they are situated on the exits.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Fines will be imposed for inadequate lighting.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also General Information.

Passengers/children in cars: Child of 7 or under cannot travel as passenger unless using suitable restraint system. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 43mph (70km/h) on all minor roads and those with a high traffic density; on all others (including motorways) 55mph (90km/h) or 68mph (110km/h) according to signs.

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors equip their vehicle with first-aid kit and, if mobile home or caravan, fire extinguisher. Beware game (moose, deer, etc – warning sign depicts animal most common on a particular stretch of road) as this constitutes a very real danger on many roads. From 1 Dec to 31 March, when the roads are covered in snow and ice, it is strongly recommended that winter tyres are used, as these are compulsory for vehicles registered in Sweden.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

SWITZERLAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN (Central Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, severe penalties include fine or prison; visiting motorists may be forbidden from driving in Switzerland for a minimum of 2 months.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (50-125cc) 16, motorcycle (over 125cc) 18.

Fines: On-the-spot in certain cases.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Gasoil) available. Limited LPG availability (only 8 outlets). Credit card acceptance variable; check with your card issuer for usage in Switzerland and Liechtenstein before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day recommended for all vehicles including motorcycles; compulsory when passing through tunnels even if they are well lit.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory. See also [General Information](#).

Passengers/children in cars: Children between 7 and 12 must use seat belts or restraint system appropriate to size when travelling as front-/rear-seat passenger; a child under 7 should use restraint system appropriate to size. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-/rear-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles with or without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 49mph (80km/h), semi-motorways and motorways 62mph (100km/h) and 74mph (120km/h) respectively for cars and 49mph (80km/h) for cars with trailers or caravans. Minimum speed on motorways 37mph (60km/h). NOTE Towing cars on motorway only permitted up to next exit at a maximum speed of 24mph (40km/h).

Special features: Warning triangle compulsory, which must be kept within easy reach (not in the boot). Hitchhiking prohibited on motorways and semi-motorways. The Swiss authorities levy an annual motorway tax and a vehicle sticker (costing CHF 40 for vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes maximum total weight and known locally as a "vignette") must be displayed in the prescribed manner by each vehicle (including motorcycles, trailers and caravans) using Swiss motorways and semi-motorways. Fine for non-display CHF100 plus cost of vignette(s). Motorists may purchase the stickers in UK (telephone the Swiss Centre on free-phone 00800 100 20030 for information) or in Switzerland from customs offices at the frontier or service stations, garages and postal offices throughout the country. Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes maximum total weight are taxed on all roads; coaches and caravans pay a fixed tax for periods of one day, 10 days, one month or one year but lorries are taxed on weight and distance travelled. Radar detectors prohibited even if not switched on. All vehicles with spiked tyres are prohibited on motorways & semi-motorways except for certain parts of the A13 & A2.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

TURKEY (South East Europe)

Drinking and driving: If level of alcohol in bloodstream 0.05 per cent or more, penalties are severe. For drivers of cars with caravans or trailers the alcohol level in the bloodstream is 0%.

Driving licence: The minimum age at which UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 17.

Fines: On-the-spot.

Fuel: Leaded (96 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted (fireproof container). Diesel available. LPG available in large centres. Credit cards accepted at many filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Turkey before travel.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility, and after sunset in built up areas.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory.

Motor insurance: Green Card compulsory (to cover whole of Turkey otherwise short-term insurance must be obtained at the border)

Passengers/children in cars: Child under 12 cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also General Information.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 31mph (50km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h) for cars, 43mph (70km/h) for motorcycles; motorways 74mph (120km/h) for cars and 49mph (80km/h) for motorcycles. Minimum speed on motorways 24mph (40km/h). Speed limits are 10km/h less if the car has a trailer.

Special features: Fire extinguisher, first-aid kit and two warning triangles compulsory.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

UKRAINE (Eastern Europe)

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Driving licence: An International Driving Permit (IDP) is compulsory for the holder of any type of UK driving licence. Minimum age at which a visitor may drive temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: Fines can be issued to foreign nationals on the spot but the police are not allowed to demand payment on the spot.

Fuel: Leaded (76 & 92 octane) and unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane) available. Petrol in can permitted. Diesel (Solyarka) available but not LPG. Credit cards are rarely accepted at filling stations; but check with your card issuer for usage in Ukraine before travel. Fuel is usually paid for in local currency.

Lights: Dipped headlights should be used in poor daytime visibility.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory for both driver and passenger. Children under 12 and less than 145cm in height are not permitted as a passenger.

Motor insurance: Third party insurance compulsory. Green Cards accepted.

Passengers/children in cars: Children under 12 and less than 145 metres in height cannot travel as front-seat passenger. See also [General Information](#).

Seat belts: Compulsory for front-seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas 37mph (60km/h), outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h). Major roads 62mph (110km/h), motorways 80mph (130km/h). Some residential zones 13mph (20km/h). NOTE Visiting motorists who have held a driving licence for less than two years must not exceed 43mph (70km/h).

Special features: A road tax is payable at the frontier. In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles also be carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas. State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. Necessary to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

April 2005

AA TOURING TIPS 2005

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR MOTORING ABROAD

DON'T forget to carry your **original documents** with you; these include your valid full driving licence (together with paper counterpart if photocard licence), IDP (where necessary), passport and motor insurance certificate and vehicle registration document or certificate. You may need a visa for certain countries, especially if you hold a UK passport not issued in the UK or the passport of any other nationality - check. If you are travelling in a vehicle other than a motor car or motorcycle or taking a boat make sure you have any additional documentation that may be required. If the vehicle you are driving is borrowed, hired or leased, approach the AA for guidance. **You may be asked to produce your documents at any time so, to avoid a police fine and/or confiscation of your vehicle, be sure that they are in order and readily available for inspection.**

DON'T forget that personal AA members visiting Europe may obtain an ARC Europe **'Show Your Card'** providing savings and discounts – visit the AA website at www.theaa.com/services/savings_aaeurope.jsp or call 08705 500600 for information.

DON'T overload the car as, safety risks apart, this can incur fines and possibly invalidate insurance.

DON'T forget, urgently needed **medical treatment** can be obtained by most visitors at reduced cost, from the health care schemes of those countries with whom the UK has health care arrangements. Details are in the Department of Health booklet "Health Advice for Travellers" which may be obtained from any main Post Office®. However, don't rely exclusively on these arrangements as the cover provided under the respective national schemes are not always comprehensive and the cost of bringing a person back to the UK in the event of illness or death is never covered. Make sure you have adequate personal travel insurance.

DON'T forget, when driving abroad **headlights** of right hand drive vehicles should be adjusted for driving on the right. For older vehicles this can be done using simple adhesive masks on the headlamp glass, but for newer vehicles with high intensity discharge (HID), xenon or many halogen headlamps it is not so easy. Check out what you must do well before your intended departure by contacting a dealer for your make of vehicle. This adjustment is not required for two-wheeled vehicles as the beam pattern is more symmetrical, but check that any extra loading has not affected the beam height.

DON'T tempt **car thieves** - never leave handbags and other attractive items in obvious view even when you are in the car and never leave valuable belongings in an unattended parked car overnight. For any warnings about personal safety and/or car crime in the countries you intend visiting, contact the Foreign Office Travel Advice Unit on 0870 606 0290 or visit website at www.fco.gov.uk

DON'T forget if you wear **spectacles** take a spare pair with you - this is especially important if you are the sole driver.

DON'T forget - never fit a rearward facing **child restraint** in a seat with a frontal airbag.

DON'T forget **reflective jacket/waistcoat** when visiting Italy, Spain, Portugal and Austria. The AA recommends that each vehicle carries at least two jackets/waistcoats in the passenger compartment – one for the driver and one for passenger who may need to assist e.g. changing a wheel. Jacket/waistcoat, which must conform to EU Standard BS EN 471:

1994 Class 1 or 2, available from AA Dover and Folkestone shops, by mail order from Summit Accessories on 01295 220 050 or from motor accessory stores.

DON'T forget **wheel chains** for any winter motoring - they are compulsory in some countries even when using winter tyres.

DO contact your **motor insurer** or **broker** for advice at least a month before taking a vehicle overseas. It is important to ensure that you are adequately covered to your and their satisfaction and have the necessary documents to prove it.

DO service the car well in advance of departure in order that any faults may show up.

DO check your **tyres** carefully - including the spare. Most countries require a minimum tread depth of 1.6mm over central three-quarters of tyre around the whole circumference. However, the AA strongly advises against using tyres with 2mm or less of tread, ideally changing any tyres worn down to 3mm before you go. Tyres wear out quickly when down to 3mm and wet road grip is markedly reduced.

DO make sure that you have adequate breakdown assistance cover. **AA European Breakdown Cover** may be purchased to provide this for many European countries; for further information call 0800 444 500 or visit the AA website at www.theAA.com

DO remember if your vehicle is not equipped with a **rear view mirror** on the left external side it is recommended that one be fitted to allow for driving on the right.

DO display a **GB sticker** - it is compulsory and failure to comply with this regulation could result in an "on-the-spot" fine. Registration plates displaying the GB Euro-symbol (Euro-Plates) became a legal option in 2001, but must comply with the new British Standard (BS AU 145d). These plates make display of a conventional sticker unnecessary when circulating within the EU. The Euro-Plate is only legally recognised in the EU; it is still a requirement to display a GB sticker when travelling outside the EU.

DO remember to **drive on the right** (except when travelling in Cyprus, Malta and the Republic of Ireland) and that traffic approaching from the right usually has indisputable priority.

DO remember that the use of **hand-held mobile phones** whilst driving is prohibited in many countries. In some countries this includes cycles and motorcycles.

DO avoid the use or even possession of **devices to detect police radar speed traps**; they are banned in most European countries. The police will not only confiscate the equipment and fine you, they may also impose a driving ban. In extreme cases confiscation of the vehicle and even imprisonment may result.

DO remember only **cats and dogs** are included in the Pets Travel Scheme (PETS). For more information contact the PETS HELPLINE on 0870 241 1710 or visit the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/quarantine

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