



## Travelling in Spain

### General Info:

Population: 46m

Area: 506,030 sq. km

Currency: Euro (100 cents) - EUR (€)

Top 10 popular attractions: Palacio Real  
Running of the Bulls  
La Concha  
Aqueduct of Segovia  
Cuenca  
Ibiza  
Sagrada Familia  
El Escorial  
Mezquita of Cordoba  
Alhambra

### Essentials:

#### Driving licence:

Visitors riding or driving in Spain must have reached the minimum ages laid down for residents of Spain even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence.

Driving licences issued in EU and EEA countries are accepted.

International driving permits are recognised but not required.

#### Important documents:

Vehicles from the UK may be imported into Spain for up to 6 months in any period of 12 months. When driving in Spain the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence\* (with paper counterpart)
- Proof of insurance (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (Passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C Certificate)

*\*International Driving Permits are recognised but not compulsory*

While driving in Spain you are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items:

- Reflective jackets (Although not mandatory to carry, someone walking on the road or hard shoulder can be fined if not wearing one)
- Warning triangle (compulsory in every vehicle with 4 wheels or more) (Residents must carry 2)
- Headlamp beam deflectors (Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually)
- Motorcyclists: Crash helmets are compulsory for riders of mopeds, motorcycles, trikes and quads, unless these are equipped with seat belts. Motorcycles on the road must have their lights on at all times.

\*Lights (It is no longer compulsory for vehicles to carry a set of spare bulbs and the tools to fit them)

Source: All information in this document is sourced from the AIT (Alliance Internationale de Tourisme) & the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) and, to the best of the RAC's knowledge, is correct at the time of publication (August 2013).

### Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover on: 0800 015 6000.

### Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)

RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

### Useful Links:

- <http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>
- <http://www.racshop.co.uk/driving-in-europe.html>

## Rules of the road & regulations:

### Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

Vehicles and combinations of vehicles exceeding 10m in length and vehicles exceeding 3.5 t must keep a distance of at least 50m with the vehicle in front, except in built-up areas, on roads where overtaking is prohibited and when there are several lanes in the same direction or when the traffic is so heavy that it is not possible to overtake another vehicle.

- **Priority**

As a general rule, drivers approaching an intersection must give way to all vehicles coming from the right.

At a roundabout, drivers already engaged in the roundabout have priority over drivers approaching the roundabout.

Drivers on secondary roads must give way to vehicles coming from either direction when entering a main road.

Vehicles on rails and emergency vehicles have priority over other road users.

- **Warning of approach**

Unnecessary use of audible warning devices is prohibited. Warning signals must be brief in built-up areas, and local authorities may prohibit the use of such signals completely. Signs indicate this prohibition. In urban areas it is prohibited to sound the horn at any time, except in an emergency. In places where audible warning is prohibited, drivers must flash their lights.

### Towing:

In the case of a camper van exceeding 12m in length, and a car + caravan/trailer combination exceeding 12m, there must be 1 or 2 yellow reflectors (either one long reflector, size about 130 x 25cm, or two shorter 50 x 25cm reflectors) at the rear of the camper van or caravan/trailer.

### Seat belts:

The wearing of seat belts is compulsory on the front seats of all private vehicles. Vehicles manufactured after 15th June 1992 must also wear seatbelts in the rear of the vehicle.

### Travelling with children:

Children up to the age of 12 and measuring less than 135cm travelling on the front seat of a car must be seated in a child restraint system adapted to their size and weight. Children measuring more than 135cm may use an adult seat belt.

Children fewer than 135cm travelling on the rear seat must also be placed in a child restraint system adapted to their size and weight, except when travelling in a taxi in an urban area.

### Speed limits:

The following national speed limits apply:

	Motorways & dual carriageways	Roads with more than one lane in each direction	Ordinary roads
Motorcycle & car	120 km/h	100 km/h	90 km/h

*Drivers of cars and motorcycles may exceed the limits shown by 20km/h in order to overtake a slower vehicle outside built-up areas, on roads with one lane in each direction.*

*The use of radar indicators and detectors is still allowed in Spain, but the ownership, transport or use of a radar jammer is strictly prohibited.*

*Motorways and dual carriageways may not be used by vehicles which cannot reach a minimum speed of 60km/h.*

## Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**

Police can impose fines on the spot. Fines may be reduced by 50% if the motorist pays within 20 days (not applicable for major offences). A fine can be contested within 15 days.

Visiting motorists must pay their fines immediately (with this reduction) unless they give the name of a person or corporation in Spain willing to guarantee payment of the fine. Otherwise the vehicle will be confiscated until the fine is paid. They can then contest the fine through the legal system.

- **Criminal offences**

Some motoring offences are considered criminal offences and lead to much higher fines, as well as vehicle confiscation and possible prison sentences.

- **Confiscation of vehicles**

A vehicle can be immobilised because of mechanical defects, excess noise or pollution, lack of insurance or because the driver refuses to pay a fine, or is under the influence of alcohol.

## Parking:

- **Parking regulations**

The blue parking zone ("zona azul" ou "zona O.R.A.") is indicated by signs. The maximum parking period is usually two hours during the day; there is no parking limit between 20:00 and 08:00 hours, depending on local dispositions.

Vehicles parked during the night on inadequately lit streets must have their side lights illuminated.

- **Paid parking**

Road signs indicate the areas where parking is restricted and must be paid for, either at parking meters or automatic machines which issue tickets indicating the length of parking time which has been paid for.

Some machines take debit/credit cards "stationnement à la carte".

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

Illegally parked vehicles may be towed away. This applies to temporarily imported vehicles as well as to those registered in Spain.

A driver whose vehicle has been taken away must go to the nearest police station. In order to get his car back, he must pay the fine for the parking offence, plus the costs of towing together with a parking fee for the time during which the vehicle was impounded.

- **Disabled parking access**

Foreign disabled permits are recognised in Spain.

Permits must be displayed on the inside of the windscreen, allowing the vehicle to be parked, with no time limit in zones which are for loading and unloading, and with a time limit in pedestrian zones, and at some places where parking is usually prohibited by signs, if permission has been granted by a traffic warden.

## Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

Green, amber and red arrows are used at some intersections

## Drink/drug driving

- **Legal limit**

General limit for drivers of private vehicles and cyclists: 0.05%

After a traffic accident, all road users have to undergo a breath test.

- **Alcohol**

A driver (or cyclist) suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or who has committed a traffic offence must undergo a breath test for alcohol or a saliva test for drugs. If he/she refuses, the vehicle may be immobilised by the police, a 1 to 4-year suspension of the driving permit may be imposed, and he/she may receive a prison sentence of 6 months to 1 year.

## Roads & fuel

Tolls are levied on most Spanish motorways.

Most motorways have an electronic system of payment – “Telepeaje” or “Via T”. Drivers can buy a small transmitter from banks or some petrol companies and fix it on the windscreen of the vehicle.

## Service areas

There are many services areas along the Spanish motorways.

## Availability of fuel

Unleaded petrol, diesel oil and lubricating oil are readily available throughout Spain.

The fuel SP95-E10, which contains up to 10% of ethanol and 90% of unleaded 95 petrol, is available. This fuel can be used in 60% of petrol-driven cars, especially in recent models.

- **Price of fuel (April 2014)**

### Mainland Spain and Balearic Islands

<b>Unleaded petrol (95 octane)</b>	1.474 EUR per litre
<b>Unleaded petrol (98 octane)</b>	1.590 EUR per litre
<b>Diesel</b>	1.369 EUR per litre
<b>LPG</b>	0.736 EUR per litre

### Canary Islands

<b>Unleaded petrol (95 octane)</b>	1.056 EUR per litre
<b>Unleaded petrol (98 octane)</b>	1.123 EUR per litre
<b>Diesel</b>	1.031 EUR per litre
<b>LPG</b>	0.539 EUR per litre*

- **Means of payment**

Credit cards are generally accepted at petrol stations.

- **Automatic petrol pumps**

Automatic petrol pumps are found in some large towns.

## Emergencies

Emergency telephones linked to an SOS telephone network are installed at 2 km intervals along the motorways.

## What RAC can do for you

RAC offers great value, flexible RAC European breakdown (<http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>) cover tailored to meet your needs. Whilst away, use our Route Planner (<http://www.rac.co.uk/route-planner>) for all your driving directions.

RAC can cover you against vehicle break down in Europe, with options available to suit your travelling requirements.

RAC European breakdown cover Basic and Comprehensive cover provides you with a wide range of benefits