

ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS

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Great Britain Driving Guide

Driving in Great Britain allows you to explore everything from country lanes to mountain roads. Downsides include traffic jams and high fuel and parking bills.

Driving Fast Facts

- ➔ **Right or left?** Left
- ➔ **Manual or automatic?** Manual
- ➔ **Legal driving age** 17
- ➔ **Top speed limit** 70mph (112km/h) on motorways and some (but not all) dual carriageways
- ➔ **Signature cars** MG, Morris Minor and Mini

DRIVING LICENCE & DOCUMENTS

At the time of writing, if you're an EU national, from the European Economic Area or from Northern Ireland you can drive any type of vehicle listed on your licence. It's not clear if or how Britain's vote to leave the EU (Brexit) will affect this (the rules are slightly different if you're from the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man).

If you're from any other country, you can drive any small vehicle (such as a car or motorcycle) listed on your licence for up to 12 months.

If asked by the police, you must be able to produce a valid driving licence and insurance documents within seven days.

INSURANCE

It's illegal to drive a car or motorbike in Britain without (at least) third-party insurance. This will be included with all rental

cars. If you're bringing your own vehicle, check whether your insurance will cover you in Britain.

HIRING A CAR

Compared with many countries (especially the USA), hire rates are expensive in Britain; the smallest cars start from about £130 per week, and it's around £190 and upwards per week for a medium-sized car. All rates include insurance and unlimited mileage, and can rise at busy times (or drop at quiet times).

Some main players:

Avis (www.avis.co.uk)

Budget (www.budget.co.uk)

Europcar (www.europcar.co.uk)

Sixt (www.sixt.co.uk)

Thrifty (www.thrifty.co.uk)

Another option is to look online for small local car-hire companies in Britain that can undercut the international franchises. Generally speaking, those in cities are cheaper than in rural areas. Using a rental-broker or comparison site such as **UK Car Hire** (www.ukcarhire.net) or **Kayak** (www.kayak.com) can also help you to find bargains.

MOTORHOME RENTAL

Hiring a motorhome or campervan (£650 to £1100 a week) is more expensive than hiring a car, but saves on accommodation