

# ROAD TRIP ESSENTIALS

## SPAIN & PORTUGAL DRIVING GUIDE ..... 393

Driving Licence & Documents.....	393
Insurance .....	393
Hiring a Car .....	393
Bringing Your Own Vehicle.....	394
Maps .....	394
Roads & Conditions .....	395
Road Rules .....	396
Parking .....	397
Fuel .....	397
Safety .....	397
Radio.....	397

## SPAIN & PORTUGAL TRAVEL GUIDE..... 398

Getting There & Away .....	398
Air.....	398
Car & Motorcycle .....	398
Sea .....	398
Train.....	399
Directory A-Z .....	399
Accommodation .....	399
Electricity .....	401
Food .....	401
Gay & Lesbian Travellers.....	402
Internet Access .....	402
Money.....	402
Opening Hours.....	403
Public Holidays .....	403
Safe Travel .....	403
Telephone .....	404
Tourist Information.....	405
Travellers with Disabilities .....	405
Visas .....	405

## LANGUAGE .....406



# Spain & Portugal Driving Guide

*With picturesque scenery, good-quality roads and an extensive highway network, Spain and Portugal are excellent places for a road trip – no matter where you roam.*

## DRIVING LICENCE & DOCUMENTS

Drivers must carry the following at all times:

- ➔ passport or an EU national ID card
- ➔ valid driving licence
- ➔ car-ownership papers
- ➔ proof of third-party liability assurance

An International Driving Permit (IDP) is not required when renting a car but it can be useful in the event of an accident or police stop, as it translates and vouches for the authenticity of your home licence.

## INSURANCE

Third-party motor insurance is a minimum requirement in Spain, Portugal and throughout Europe. Ask your insurer for a

## Road Trip Websites

### AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATIONS

**RAC** ([www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/spain](http://www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/spain) and [www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/portugal](http://www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/portugal))  
Info for British drivers on driving in Spain and Portugal.

### ROUTE MAPPING

**Mappy** ([www.mappy.es](http://www.mappy.es))  
**Michelin** ([www.viamichelin.com](http://www.viamichelin.com))

## Driving Fast Facts

- ➔ **Right or left?** Drive on the right
- ➔ **Manual or automatic?** Manual
- ➔ **Legal driving age** 18
- ➔ **Top speed limit** In Portugal and Spain 120km/h on major autoways (though some Spanish toll roads now have 130km/h limits)
- ➔ **Signature car** SEAT León Mk3

European Accident Statement form, which can simplify matters in the event of an accident. A European breakdown-assistance policy such as the AA Five Star Service or RAC Eurocover Motoring Assistance is a good investment. Car-hire companies also provide this minimum insurance, but be careful to understand what your liabilities and excess are, and what waivers you are entitled to in case of accident or damage to the hire vehicle.

## HIRING A CAR

To rent a car in Spain or Portugal you have to have a licence, be aged 21 or over and, for the major companies at least, have a credit or debit card. Smaller firms in areas where car hire is particularly common (such as the Balearic Islands) can sometimes live without this last requirement. Although those with a non-EU licence should also have an IDP, you will find that national licences from countries such as Australia,