

# Italy and San Marino (Southern Europe)

## Touring Tips



This information should be read in conjunction with [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a 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 the 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. Alternatively, older licences may be accompanied by an [International Driving Permit \(IDP\)](#).

**Motor Insurance:** Third-party compulsory.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel (Gasolio) and LPG is available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute additive available). Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Italy & San Marino before travel.

**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.

Newly qualified drivers must not exceed a speed limit of 55mph (90 km/h) outside built up areas (62 mph (100 km/h) permitted on motorways) for three years after passing their test.

**Note:** In wet weather lower speed limits of 55mph (90km/h) apply on dual carriageways and 68mph (110km/h) on motorways.

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

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children travelling in foreign registered vehicles i.e. in a UK registered vehicle, must be secured according to UK legislation.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory outside built-up areas and during snow and rain / poor visibility. Rear fog lights may only be used when visibility is less than 50 metres or in case of strong rain or intense snow. Lights must be switched on in tunnels.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory on all roads. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger. The vehicle can be seized for non-compliance. It is prohibited to carry a child less than 5 years on a moped or motorcycle. The registration certificate must state that the moped / motorcycle is designed to carry a passenger. Motorcycles under 150cc are not allowed on motorways. A rear view

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mirror is compulsory on mopeds and motorcycles. Two are compulsory if the motorcycle is capable of exceeding 100 km/h.

**Drinking and driving:** If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.051 per cent or more, severe penalties include fines, confiscation of vehicle and imprisonment. Professional drivers and drivers with less than three years driving experience, the alcohol limit is zero, it is prohibited. A person can also be tested for narcotics.

**Fines:** On-the-spot. Fines are 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. Fines for serious offences committed at night between 2200 and 0700 hours are increased by one third, serious offences include speeding, going through a red light etc. Illegally parked vehicles can be clamped or towed away and a fine imposed.

### Compulsory equipment in Italy and San Marino:

- **Warning triangle** - For all vehicles with more than two wheels.
- **Reflective jacket** - 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. Not applicable to two wheeled vehicles.
- **Snow chains (or winter tyres)** - between 15 October and 15 April, or at other times if conditions dictate. This obligation is indicated by the International Road Sign Provinces can introduce their own legislation making the use of winter tyres or snow chains compulsory. Maximum speed limit if using snow chains is 31mph (50 km/h).

### Other rules/requirements in Italy and San Marino:

Any vehicle with an overhanging load (e.g. carrying bicycle at rear) must display a **fully** reflectorised square panel 50cm x 50cm which is red and white diagonally striped, a fine may be imposed if the sign is not displayed. This also applies to vehicles such as cars/caravans carrying bicycles at the rear. This board can be purchased from most caravan / motor home accessory shops.

Tolls are levied on the majority of motorways.

In built up areas the use of the horn is prohibited except in cases of immediate danger.

The transportation or use of radar detectors is prohibited. Violation of this regulation will result in a fine between 808 and 3238 Euros and confiscation of the device.

AREA C (A pollution charge, formerly Eco-pass) is levied in the centre of Milan. Charges apply Mon-Fri and generally from 7.30am until 7.30pm. Drivers must purchase an eco-pass before entering the restricted zone. [Tariffs vary according to the emissions of the vehicle](#). Mopeds and motorcycles are exempt.

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Either winter tyres or snow chains may be used on roads where chains are compulsory.

Traffic is restricted in many historical centres/major towns known as 'Zone a Traffico Limitato' or ZTLs, circulation is only permitted for residents.



Entering such areas normally results in a fine by post.

For the latest information on Low Emission Zones, Congestion Charge schemes and other access restrictions/regulations in cities across Europe (including ZTLs in Italy) that affect foreign registered vehicles visit [Urban Access Regulations in Europe](#)

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### Related advice and information

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