

Driving Rules of the Dominican Republic

This document provides an overview of the main driving rules and road regulations in the Dominican Republic. It is intended for residents, tourists, and foreign drivers.

1. General Traffic Rules

- Vehicles drive on the **right-hand side** of the road.
- Overtaking is done on the **left**.
- Seat belts are **mandatory for all occupants**.
- Pedestrians have priority at **marked crossings**.
- Comply with all traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

2. Required Documents

Drivers must carry:

- Valid **Dominican driving licence** or **International Driving Permit (IDP)** for foreign drivers
- Vehicle registration document
- Valid vehicle insurance
- Passport or national ID for foreign visitors

3. Speed Limits (km/h)

- **Urban areas:** 40–60 km/h
- **Rural roads:** 80 km/h
- **Highways / Expressways:** 100–120 km/h

Always follow posted speed limits as they may vary locally.

4. Alcohol and Driving

- Maximum permitted blood alcohol concentration: **0.05% (0.5‰)**
- Penalties include fines, licence suspension, and possible imprisonment.

5. Seat Belts and Child Safety

- Seat belts are **mandatory for all passengers**, front and rear.
- Children under **12 years** should sit in the rear seats.
- Child safety seats are recommended for young children.

6. Mobile Phones and Devices

- Use of a **handheld mobile phone** while driving is prohibited.
- Hands-free devices are permitted.
- Texting while driving is illegal.

7. Vehicle Lights and Usage

- Headlights must be used during poor visibility or at night.
- Hazard lights are used in emergencies only.

8. Toll Roads and Fees

- Some highways may have tolls.
- Payments are made at toll booths.
- Driving without paying tolls may result in fines.

9. Parking Rules

- Park only in designated areas.
- Paid parking is common in cities and tourist areas.
- Illegal parking may result in fines or towing.

10. Traffic Enforcement and Penalties

- Traffic laws are enforced by the **National Police and Transit Authorities**.
- Offences may result in fines, licence suspension, or imprisonment.

11. Emergency Numbers

- **911** – Police, Ambulance, Fire
- **911** can be used for all emergencies

12. Practical Driving Tips

- Drive defensively; expect aggressive driving in urban areas.
- Be cautious on rural roads, especially at night.
- Keep all documents and vehicle insurance accessible.