

Things to take when driving in Hungary

Documents for driving in Hungary

- A valid, full UK driving licence (you must also be 18 or over)
- Your motor insurance certificate
- The V5 registration document for your own car or the hire car paperwork for a rental

Do I need a GB or UK sticker for driving in Hungary?

Since 28th September 2021, the distinguishing mark (or national identifier) displayed on vehicles registered in the United Kingdom that are driven abroad has changed from GB to UK.

This means that vehicles registered in the UK must display the letters “UK” when driven in Hungary.

The identifier can be incorporated in vehicle number plates (along with the Union Flag) or as a separate sticker. Note that vehicles featuring the letters GB together with the Council of Europe golden stars are no longer valid for driving abroad.

If your vehicle does not have the UK identifier within the number plate, you will require a UK sticker when driving in Hungary. GB stickers will no longer be valid from the end of September.

Do I need an insurance green card?

From 2nd August 2021, drivers will no longer require an insurance green card for taking their vehicles to Hungary.

ETIAS – 2025

[ETIAS](#) stands for the European Travel Information and Authorisation System. It is a visa program for visitors who don't need a Schengen visa, who want to travel to the European Union and a few other European countries.

Visitors who purchase an ETIAS will be able to enter the 26 member states of the Schengen Zone as well as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, and Romania.

This will be launching in 2025. [Learn more about ETIAS here.](#)

Driving in Hungary packing checklist

Aside from the documents above, there are some legally-required items you must bring with you to drive in Hungary.

Unless your headlights can be adjusted, it's a legal requirement to carry headlamp converters (stickers for your headlights when driving on the right, so your lights don't dazzle motorists coming the other way).

A warning triangle is also compulsory to carry in vehicles in case of a breakdown.

It's also recommended to have:

- Spare bulbs for your car's external lights
- A fire extinguisher
- A first-aid kit
- A reflective jacket

You can pick up all the car kit you need from [RAC Shop](#).

Is there anything that I shouldn't take with me?

Be aware that you cannot take the following with you into Hungary:

- meat or products containing meat
- milk or dairy products

You cannot take the following unless you pay to have them inspected before you leave and get a 'phytosanitary certificate':

- fresh fruit (apart from bananas, coconuts, dates, pineapples and durians)
- vegetables
- plants
- plant products

Rules of the road in Hungary

- Wear a crash helmet if you're riding a motorcycle
- Use dipped headlights during the day outside built-up areas, even when travelling on motorways
- In Hungary, you drive on the right and overtake on the left. Vehicles from the right, public transport and emergency vehicles have priority
- You're not allowed to use your horn in built-up areas, except in cases of immediate danger. You can use it outside urban areas when necessary
- If you're involved in an accident with a Hungarian citizen, you must report the incident to the Association of Hungarian Insurance Companies

- Some sections of Hungary's motorway system are toll-free, but for most you will need to purchase an e-vignette
- If you're caught committing a motoring offence while driving through Hungary, you could be given an on-the-spot fine of up to 300,000 HUF (around £740)
- The driver and all passengers must wear seat belts when travelling on public roads
- Children measuring less than 150cm in height must use a child restraint appropriate for their weight. Children under the age of 3 can travel on the front seat if the child restraint system is rear-facing and the airbag is deactivated
- In Hungary, there is a zero-tolerance policy on drink-driving, with the limit set at 0.00%. If you consume any alcoholic drink before getting behind the wheel, you risk a fine, [suspension](#) or prison sentence. It's also illegal to allow someone to drive if they've been drinking
- You must not use full-beam headlights at night in built-up areas

Hungarian speed limits

The speed limit is 50km/h in built-up areas, although a 30km/h limit is increasingly common in city centres. On open roads, the maximum speed allowed is 90-110km/h, while on motorways it's 130km/h.

You must not use any radar equipment that interferes with specific radio frequencies to jam police signals.

Other things you should know when driving in Hungary

- Parking can be limited in built-up areas, with restricted zones signposted. Wheel clamps are used in Budapest, and if you park illegally or cause an obstruction your vehicle can be towed away
- Certain types of vehicle can be restricted from entering Budapest and other major Hungarian cities when smog reaches a particular level
- Unleaded petrol and diesel are readily available, as is LPG. Payment is generally made in cash, although some filling stations will accept credit cards
- You'll find small snack bars and restaurants near the main petrol stations. Motels are not commonplace in Hungary – you're more likely to find accommodation in the towns and villages off the main roads

In an emergency

112 - Here's a really important bit of knowledge; you can dial 112 from anywhere in Europe and an operator will connect you to an emergency service in the country you're visiting.

Operators can answer your call in their native language, English or French.

Breaking down in Hungary

RAC offers great-value, flexible RAC [European breakdown cover](#) tailored to meet your needs. We also offer comprehensive [travel insurance](#), including cover for medical expenses, baggage, personal money and belongings.

Driving a hire car in Hungary

Not all of the information in the guide above will be relevant to those looking to rent a hire car in Hungary.

Though it might be a good idea to read through everything anyway, here are the most important things to know for drivers of rental vehicles:

Rental information

- The minimum age to hire a car is 21, although a surcharge may apply to drivers under 25
- You need a full, valid UK driving licence and usually a second proof of ID (passport)
- Some car rental companies ask that you have held your licence for a minimum term of 1 year
- Some companies require you to use a credit card for deposit
- You may not be able to drive outside of Hungary unless planned in advance - check with your hire company first
- Make sure you get [car hire excess insurance](#) before your trip to protect yourself from unexpected costs. It's almost always cheaper to do this with a separate insurer and in advance

Hire car driving tips

- Hungarians drive on the right and overtake on the left - the opposite to the UK
- The speed limit is 50km/h in built-up areas, although a 30km/h limit is increasingly common in city centres. On open roads, the maximum speed allowed is 90-110km/h, while on motorways it's 130km/h
- Dial 112 in an emergency
- It's compulsory to wear seat belts in the front and rear seats
- The blood alcohol content limit for drivers of private vehicles is strictly 0.00%