

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ **Driving** is on the left.
- ❑ **Drivers are** required to carry driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of third party insurance; US driving licenses are valid for one year from entry.
- ❑ **Pedestrians** account for 24 percent of all traffic deaths. Many deaths result from pedestrians from right-driving countries being unfamiliar with traffic patterns and direction of vehicle approach.
- ❑ **Pedestrians generally** do not have right of way; using official crossings is strongly recommended.
- ❑ **Blood alcohol** limit is below 0.08 g/dl for all drivers.
- ❑ **Cars are** typically standard transmission; rentals with automatic transmission should be arranged in advance.
- ❑ **There are** 3.1 road deaths per 100,000 people in the United Kingdom (UK), compared to 2.8 in Sweden and 12.5 in Chile.

### DRIVING CULTURE

- **Aggressive** driving and tailgating are common.
- **Motorcyclists** and bicyclists may behave unpredictably, particularly on narrow roads.
- **Road rage** and road bullying is an issue in the UK.
- **Despite laws**, drivers frequently use their horns for a variety of reasons.
- **Jumping traffic** lights is common.
- **Drivers may** disregard marked pedestrian crossings.
- **Drivers often** fail to yield to existing motorway traffic.

### ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** a total of 394,428 km (245,086 miles) of paved roads, including 3,519 km (2,186 miles) of expressways.
- **Motorways** are generally in good condition with well-marked exits. Surfaces of secondary and minor roads vary in condition.
- **Roads are** often narrow and congested.
- **Narrow country** roads are frequently bordered by stone walls.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is well developed.
- **Loose animals** on roadways are common, particularly in rural and mountainous areas.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
  - » **Swindon's Magic Roundabout** in the town of Swindon in Southwest England consists of five small roundabouts arranged in a circular pattern around one larger clockwise roundabout and one inner counterclockwise roundabout. Drivers unfamiliar with left hand driving should not attempt this road junction.
  - » **Cat and Fiddle Road (A537)** in Cheshire links Macclesfield and Buxton. The asphalt road has frequent fatal crashes, and is regarded as one of the most dangerous roads in England. There are multiple sharp bends, with a steep drop from the paved surface to the verge. Much of the road is edged by stone walls. It is heavily traveled by motorcyclists and commercial traffic.
  - » The **A682 between junction M65 in Lancashire and A65** in Long Preston in North Yorkshire is regarded as a highly dangerous road, and the site of multiple fatal crashes. The narrow road has an asphalt surface with one lane in each direction. Heavy traffic, speeding drivers, and a large number of motorcyclists contribute to treacherous conditions.
  - » **Rosedale Chimney** is a mountain pass located in the North York Moors National Park. The road has a tarmac surface with many sections in poor repair. Steep grades, sharp turns and narrow lanes create challenging driving conditions. The road is subject to ice and snow in winter.
  - » **Hardnott Pass** is a single-lane mountain road in the Lake District National Park in Cumbria. There are many hairpin turns, and steep sections with grades of up to 33 percent. Heavy tourist traffic and mini-buses are common; drivers traveling downhill must give way to ascending traffic. The steep road is unlit with an asphalt surface and is prone to heavy snowfall and icy conditions during winter months.



Source: CIA Factbook

- » The **A258 between Pentworth and Chichester** has had many fatal crashes. The asphalt road has multiple sharp turns and changes in elevation. Long straightaways encourage speeding. Winter conditions include ice and snow. The road is heavily trafficked by a combination of tourists and large commercial vehicles.

## REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **England is** subject to strong wind storms, severe flooding, fog, rain and snow.
- **Weather conditions** frequently impact transportation services.
- **Be familiar with emergency procedures.** The Red Cross provides a website and free, downloadable emergency app: <http://www.redcross.org/get-help/prepare-for-emergencies/types-of-emergencies>

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

- **Public transportation** is extensive and well developed. Options include bus, metro, subway, rail and tram.
- **Rail service** is less developed in some rural areas; many smaller stations have been permanently closed.
- **Passenger services** are run by privately owned regional franchises operating cooperatively under National Rail.
- **Local, intercity,** regional and high-speed networks service major cities and many smaller cities.
- **An upgrade** of tracks and infrastructure is ongoing throughout England. Service interruptions are common; updates on specific routes are available at [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)
- **Rapid transit systems** include London Underground, Tyne & Wear Metro, and Merseyrail in the Liverpool City Region.
- **Trams and light rail** are available in multiple cities and large towns including Blackpool, Sheffield, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Nottingham, London and Manchester.
- **National Express** and Megabus offer intercity coach bus service across England and adjoining countries.
- **Bus networks** are less developed in small towns and rural areas. Routes may be limited.
- **Use only** licensed taxis. The major operator is Black Cabs (also called mini-cabs). Cabs may be hailed or pre-ordered.

## TRAFFIC REGULATIONS










- **Speed limit signs** are in miles per hour.
- **Minimum driving age** is 17 for cars and 16 for mopeds; car rental agency rules may differ by company.
- **Drivers may** not enter yellow box junctions at intersections marked with crisscross lines if their exit path is not clear.
- **Drivers must** stop at the broken “give way” line about three feet before the crossing when pedestrians are present at crossings.
- **Drivers and** all passengers are required to use seat belts.
- **Children may** ride in front seats provided they are secured in an appropriate child restraint; restraints are compulsory for children up to 12 years of age.
- **On motorways,** signals positioned on central lane reservation areas apply to all lanes.
- **Drivers entering** motorways must yield to traffic already present.
- **Drivers must** remain in left lane of motorways unless overtaking.
- **Traffic** approaching from the right at a roundabout has priority.
- **Double** roundabouts or connected series of roundabouts are common. Drivers should treat each roundabout separately.
- **New** road signs depicting small mammals such as hedgehogs and rabbits have been put in place to help prevent crashes due to animals in urban and rural roadways.
- **Pedestrians** are barred from crossing zigzag areas on roadways.
- **Pedestrians are** prohibited from walking along motorways.
- **Pedestrians** should be alert to pedestrian zone signs that carry information about restricted times.

Maximum Speed Limits  
(signs are in miles)

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	30 mph (48 kph)
Rural roads	60 mph (96 kph)
Motorways	70 mph (112 kph)

Always adjust speed according to signage, hazards and weather conditions.

Signs are generally pictorial and may not follow European Union conventions.

								
Clearway: no stopping for 7 miles	Buses and bicycles share lane	Special speed limit in this area	Parking on verge and path allowed at times shown	Shared quiet lane	Markers to deceleration lane	No towed caravans allowed	Traffic calmed area	Controlled parking at these times

- **Pedestrian** crossings with lights may include a central island separating traffic approaching from opposing directions, or staggered crossing areas. Check for separate crossing signals before crossing second half of road from central island.
- **Bicycles must** be equipped with front and rear lights and red rear reflector. Lights must be used at night and when visibility is poor during rain and fog. Bells are recommended.
- **There are** few dedicated bicycle lanes. Cyclists are required to use sidewalks or paths along roadways where available.
- **Cyclists must** ride on right side of roadways where there are no paths.
- **Cyclists are** required to wear helmets.
- **Cyclists must** use arm signals to alert other road users of turns or stops.
- **Helmet use** is mandatory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened; enforcement is high.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests for alcohol use.
- **Drivers operating** motorized vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs face prison sentences.
- **Drivers stopped** for traffic offenses must provide a UK address for receipt of a court subpoena; failure to do so may result in detainment or arrest.

## London (Capital)

- » Roads are narrow; traffic is chaotic and dense. Driving is not recommended.
- » Public transportation is often faster than driving.
- » Pedestrians should exercise caution, particularly if visiting from a right-driving country. Be alert to traffic directions when crossing streets.
- » Visiting drivers from right-hand driving countries who are unfamiliar with traffic patterns add to road dangers.
- » Congestion charges apply in the central city zone. Drivers failing to pay charges face fines and arrest.
- » Congestion charges apply Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- » The new T-charge extends to vehicles not meeting Euro 4 emissions standards.
- » Pay areas include the Dartford Crossing on the M25 or M6 toll roads.
- » Yellow box junctions are marked with criss-cross lines; do not enter until turn path is clear.
- » Bus lanes are restricted to buses only; hours vary in different parts of the city.
- » No stopping is allowed on “red routes;” routes are marked by double red lines or by a blue circular sign with a red cross through it.
- » Parking is difficult and limited. Many streets are restricted. Never park where zigzag lines are displayed on roadway.
- » Be alert to cyclists, and to taxis pulling in and out of lanes to pick up passengers.
- » Public transportation options include bus, underground (Tube), light rail, tram and rail. Most are operated by Transport for London (TfL).
- » The London underground system has 11 lines.
- » Light rail (DLR) links to London City Airport and multiple locations east of the city.
- » Commuter boats within the TfL network are available along the River Thames.
- » Airport express trains operate from central city stations to Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Luton airports.
- » Tramlink offers routes in the southern suburbs.
- » Overground TfL rail operates a variety of routes.
- » National Rail suburban rail provides multiple routes; the system is not part of TfL.
- » The bus network is extensive. Night buses are available.
- » Bus tickets may not be purchased on board.
- » Licensed taxis are Black Cabs, also called mini-cabs; cars may not be black in color.
- » Taxis may be hailed on the street or booked in advance.
- » There are multiple city airports. Heathrow and Gatwick provide the primary gateways to North America.
- » Heathrow International Airport is 14 miles (23 km) west of the city.
- » Underground service to the airport takes approximately one hour; trains depart from Piccadilly Station and stops at terminals 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- » Heathrow Express trains depart from Paddington Station; travel time to terminals 2 and 3 is about 15 minutes, and 21 minutes to T4.
- » TfL Rail departs from Paddington Station about every 30 minutes. The train makes multiple local stops before arriving at the airport.
- » Multiple buses provide airport service; service includes local city buses and coaches operated by National Express and Megabus.com.
- » Official taxis are located in ranks outside each terminal.
- » Most major rental car agencies are represented in terminal arrivals areas.
- » Gatwick Airport is 29.5 miles (47 km) south of the city.
- » Gatwick Express service departs the city from Victoria Station. Other rail options with airport connections from various city stations are provided by Thameslink, Great Western Railway and Southern.
- » Direct rail service from the airport connects to 129 stations.

- » Most buses operate from the lower South Terminal. Local Metrobuses provide service to multiple destinations.
- » National Express buses offer direct links to and from the airport and 70 destinations.
- » Official, licensed taxis may be found at ranks outside of arrivals, or booked in advance online.
- » Most major rental car agencies are represented in the arrivals hall.

#### Manchester

- » Roads are narrow with heavy traffic. Driving is not recommended.
- » Road surfaces are generally in good condition.
- » Public transportation is well developed. Options include bus, tram, train and taxi.
- » System One Travelcards allow access to most routes.
- » Free city buses (formerly Metroshuttle) operate on a circular route within city center. Buses link to all main rail stations and business areas.
- » There is a large network of long distance buses to other parts of the UK.
- » Metrolink trams offer extensive routes.
- » Rail service includes inter-city links and routes to nearby towns.
- » Cycling paths are extensive, with dedicated routes through city center and nearby areas.
- » Taxis are readily available. Taxis are metered within the city; for longer routes, negotiate fares in advance.
- » Use only official taxis; unlicensed taxis are common.
- » Manchester Airport is located 8 miles (13 km) from city center.
- » National Express coaches offer service from the airport to city center and multiple destinations throughout the UK. Private coach operators are also available.
- » Metrolink tram links the airport to city center and other city locations.
- » National Rail and TransPennine Express trains link directly to Manchester Piccadilly station from the airport.
- » Licensed taxis from StreetCars and Black Cabs may be found at ranks outside of arrivals, or booked in advance.
- » Most major rental car agencies are represented in the arrivals hall.

## EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
  - » Police, ambulance and fire: 999
- **Responses** to emergency situations are generally good; responses may be slower in remote areas.
- **SOS emergency** call boxes can be found along motorways at half-mile intervals. Phone boxes are orange and have SOS displayed on them. White and blue poles indicate nearest SOS phone. Phones connect directly to emergency centers and specify exact location of call; if conditions allow, motorway phones should be used rather than cell phones to aid responders.
- **If involved in a crash:**
  - » Switch off engine and activate hazard lights.
  - » Call emergency services. Remain at scene until police or traffic officials indicate you may leave.
  - » Be prepared to administer first aid to injured persons. Do not move injured people from a vehicle unless they are in immediate danger of fire or explosion.
  - » Do not remove the helmet from an injured motorcyclist or bicyclist.
  - » If parties are uninjured, move them to safety away from traffic.
  - » If crash occurs on a motorway, do not attempt to place a warning triangle in road.
  - » Exchange contact information with other driver(s) including license number, plate number, insurance information and phone number. If possible, take photographs of scene.

ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey.

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