



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ❑ Driving is on the left.
- ❑ Drivers are required to carry a valid national driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance; US driving licenses are valid for one year from entry.
- ❑ An International Driving Permit (IDP) may also be required for drivers from some countries.
- ❑ Official currency is the Pound Sterling (GBP).
- ❑ Cars are generally standard transmission. Arrange in advance if an automatic rental car is required.
- ❑ Pedestrians account for 16 percent of all traffic deaths and serious injuries. Many deaths are attributed to pedestrians from right-driving countries who are unfamiliar with the direction of approaching traffic.
- ❑ Legal blood alcohol limit is below 0.08 g/dl. Despite legal limits, an estimated 15% of road fatalities involve alcohol use.
- ❑ Drivers found to be operating motorized vehicles while under the influence of alcohol or drugs face prison sentences.
- ❑ There are 2.8 road deaths per 100,000 people in the United Kingdom (UK), compared to 2.8 in Sweden and 15.08 in Brazil.



Source: Wiki Commons

ROAD CULTURE

- **Aggressive** driving and tailgating are typical; antagonistic road behavior often involves drivers accelerating and braking suddenly in front of other drivers.
- **Road bullying** is not uncommon.
- **Motorists** often speed.
- **Many motorists** engage in distracted driving behaviors including the use of handheld electronic devices; even hands-free phones have been implicated in many serious and fatal crashes.
- **Horn use** is frequent and may or may not indicate road danger.
- **Motorists may** flash their headlights to signal they are giving way to the car behind.
- **Drivers may** jump red lights.
- **Poor driving** behavior includes failure to yield to existing motorway traffic when entering major roads.
- **Drivers may** disregard marked pedestrian crossings.
- **Motorcyclists and bicyclists** may weave through traffic or behave unpredictably, particularly on narrow roads.

ROAD CONDITIONS

- **There are** 21,654 miles (34,850 km) of roads in Wales, out of 247,800 miles (398,795 km) of total UK roads.
- **The most** dangerous roads in the UK are found in Wales.
- **Roads are** generally single-lane, narrow and winding.
- **Road types** include motorways, A roads (major trunk roads), B roads, C roads and minor surfaced roads.
- **There are** many winding, high-mountain roads. Roads are often rugged and narrow with blind corners. Fog and rain may affect surface conditions.
- **Much of** the country is rural, with many mountainous regions. GPS and SatNav coverage may not be available. Carry up-to-date paper maps.
- **Slow-moving** farm equipment is common on roads, particularly in rural areas.
- **Road signs** are written in both Welsh and English. In many areas, Welsh translations are predominant.
- **There are no** toll roads or bridges; previous bridge tolls have been eliminated.
- **On some** multi-lane roads, speed limits for individual lanes are posted on signs.
- **Pedestrian** infrastructure is better developed in cities than in rural areas.
- **Sheep flocks** and cow herds are not fenced. Be aware of livestock, loose horses and deer on roadways.
- **There are** many horseback riders. Motorists should be alert at all times for persons on horseback.
- **The following roads** may present particular challenges to motorists:
 - » **Roads in** the counties of Powys and Ceredigion



Road Conditions, continued

are regarded as highly dangerous and are the location of many serious and fatal crashes. Routes are narrow and winding. During spring rains, surfaces become slick, increasing danger.

- » **The B4308** between Trimsaran and Llanelli is a highly dangerous route. The road is a single carriageway with broken white lines separating traffic moving in opposite directions. It is too narrow in many sections for vehicles to safely pass one another. A stone wall edges one side; damage to the wall from vehicles colliding with it has caused the structure to loosen and to spread rocks onto the road surface. Pedestrian traffic is common along road edges. Some sections have no pedestrian footpaths; many main public footpaths connect to it directly, resulting in walkers being forced to share the road with fast-moving motorized traffic.
- » **The M4 motorway** between London and Wales has a high number of fatal and serious crashes. Traffic is generally heavy. Weather conditions including heavy rain and fog create treacherous surface conditions. Many crashes involve motorcycles and motorbikes traveling at high speeds.

REGIONAL AND SEASONAL CONDITIONS

- **Wales is** subject to strong wind and rain storms, flooding, mudslides, landslides, fog, wildfires and snow.
- **Floods** and mudslides may follow heavy rains, particularly in coastal and riverside locations.
- **Standing water** may obscure potholes or other road hazards. Do not drive or step into floodwaters. Currents may be strong enough to move large vehicles.
- **Severe** weather conditions including heavy fog and snow frequently impact transportation services.
- **Strong winds** may result in bridge closures, including the Prince of Wales Severn Bridge on the M4 motorway.
- **Wildfires may** occur, particularly during summer months. During fires, driver visibility may be impacted.
- **There is** a risk of avalanches in mountainous areas, especially after heavy rain or snowfall.
- **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>

TRANSPORTATION










- **Transportation options** include cars, taxis, motorcycles, buses, bicycles, trains and boats.
- **Roads are** well marked and maintained. For travel to many areas, a private car may be the most efficient option.
- **Public transportation** is less developed than in some parts of the UK.
- **Buses provide** the main form of public transport.
- **Bus routes** are well-developed in Cardiff and Swansea, and less available in other areas of the country.
- **In many** locations, Royal Mail Post-buses are the only available local bus service; these buses also deliver the mail.
- **Numerous** bus companies provide routes:
 - » Long-distance intercity coach services are operated by National Express along the south coast, west coast and north coast.
 - » Megabus routes link Newport, Cardiff and Swansea.
 - » Flixbus connects Cardiff and Swansea via Bridgend.
 - » Private long-distance buses are operated by TrawsCymru. An app is available for timetables.

Maximum Speed Limits

Type of road	Maximum speed
Urban areas	30 mph (48 kph)
Rural roads	60 mph (96 kph)
Highways	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.

								
No through road for vehicles	Dual carriageway ends	Welsh spelling on road sign	Vehicles may park on footway verge	Obstruction near edge of road	Slow down	Crossroad ahead on left bend	Direction of temporary detour	Vehicles may not wait on footpath



Transportation, continued

- **A dedicated** bus service called “fflecsi” has routes in ten different regions in the country. These buses may be booked via the fflecsi app; buses pick up and drop off passengers at predetermined service areas.
- **Additional** seasonal bus services are offered in many regions at peak tourist times.
- **Taxis are** readily available in most cities. Use only licensed taxis.
- **Rideshare services** are available in Cardiff and in other urban areas. Use only rideshare services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- **Trains** are overseen by National Rail and are operated by a number of private companies.
- **The main** passenger rail line runs mostly parallel to the south coast.
- **There is** rail service connecting Wales and England.
- **A number** of scenic railways cover Mid Wales and North Wales, including Heart of Wales Line, Cambrian Coast Line and Conwy Valley Line.
- **Cycling is** popular, particularly in rural areas. There is a National Cycle Network with bicycle routes in many locations.
- **Many people** walk. Routes include the Wales Coast Path, Offa’s Dyke Path, Pembrokeshire Coast Path and numerous other public footpaths.
- **Ferries** provide service between Wales and Ireland. Ferry ports include Swansea, Holyhead and Fishguard.
- **Ferries are** operated by multiple companies including Irish Ferries and Stena Line. If traveling by ferry, check company safety records and availability of lifeboats and life-saving equipment. Consider bringing your own life preserver.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

- **Drivers** must be at least 17 years old to drive, and 21 to rent a vehicle. Some rental agencies may have other restrictions.
- **Speed limit** signs are in miles per hour.
- **Seat belt** use is mandatory for all vehicle occupants.
- **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.
- **Helmet use** is mandatory for motorcycle drivers and passengers. Helmets must be fastened. Helmet enforcement is high.
- **Cyclists** are required to wear helmets.

- **Cyclists must** use arm signals to alert other road users of turns or stops.
- **Bicycles must** be equipped with front and rear lights and a red rear reflector. Lights must be used at night and during poor visibility, including rain and fog. Bells are not required but are recommended.
- **Some areas** lack dedicated bicycle lanes. Cyclists are required to use sidewalks or paths along roadways where available.
- **Where paths** are not available, cyclists must ride on right-hand side of roadways.
- **Pedestrian crossings** with lights may include staggered crossing areas, or a central island separating traffic approaching from opposing directions. Check for separate walking signals before crossing second half of road from central island.
- **Pedestrians are** barred from crossing zigzag areas on roads or walking along motorways.
- **Pedestrians** should be alert to pedestrian zone signs that carry information about restricted crossing times.
- **When pedestrians** are present, drivers must stop at broken “give way” lines located about three feet in front of crossings.
- **Drivers may** not enter yellow box junctions at intersections (marked with crisscross lines) if their exit path is not clear.
- **On motorways**, signals positioned on the central lane reservation area/median apply to all lanes.
- **Drivers** entering motorways must yield to traffic already present on road.
- **Drivers must** remain in left-hand lane of motorways unless overtaking.
- **Overtaking** on the left is permitted on motorways when traffic congestion keeps traffic moving at similar speeds in right and left lanes.
- **On non-motorways**, drivers may pass on the left only if the car ahead has signaled it is making a right turn and there is sufficient room to overtake safely.
- **Traffic approaching** from the right at a roundabout has priority.
- **Double roundabouts** or series of roundabouts are common. Treat each roundabout separately.
- **On urban** and rural roads, signs depicting small mammals such as hedgehogs and rabbits are in place to help prevent crashes related to animals.
- **Police may** carry out random breath tests.
- **Drivers** stopped for traffic offenses must be able to provide a UK address for receipt of a court subpoena; failure to do so may result in detainment or arrest.

Cardiff (Capital)

- » Largest city. Cardiff is connected directly to London via the M4 motorway across the Severn Bridge.
- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, motorcycles, buses, bicycles, trains and boats.
- » The city is small and compact. Driving may not be the most efficient mode of transport. Public transportation is well-developed.
- » There are many roundabouts. Street layouts can be confusing.
- » Traffic congestion is common during peak commuter hours.
- » Taxis may be flagged on the street or booked in advance.
- » Use only official taxis bearing yellow plates on the rear bumper. There is no standard color for official taxi vehicles. Many are black.
- » Rideshare services are available. Use only rideshare services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver's name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » The bus network is widespread.
- » Cardiff Bus serves most city routes. Other providers are Stagecoach, Veolia Transport Cymru and First Cymru.
- » Most buses can be found on streets around Central Station, including on Westgate Street. Signs indicate bus destinations.
- » National Express coach buses provide long-distance service to other major British cities. Buses depart from Sophia Gardens, located north of city center.
- » MegaBus provides direct service to and from Cardiff Castle and London.
- » Inter-city train services are operated by Transport for Wales.
- » Cardiff Central railway station is the main train station. There are more than 20 train stations within the city.
- » Routes include Inter-city destinations; with long distance services to South and North Wales, and to Manchester and Birmingham in England.
- » Valley Lines train routes operate from Cardiff Queen Street Station; routes include suburbs and commuter towns.
- » Train tickets can be purchased at machines at station entrances.
- » River Taff Waterbus operates boat routes in Cardiff Bay.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed. Be alert to visiting drivers unfamiliar with left-drive rules.
- » Pedestrians should exercise caution when crossing roads; particularly if unfamiliar with the direction of approaching traffic.
- » Cycling is popular. Nextbike is a citywide bike sharing program.
- » There is a well-developed cycling network. Paths connect most of the city through parks.
- » Pedestrians often block cycling paths.
- » Cardiff Airport is 12 miles (19.3 km) from city center.
- » Taxis can be found at queues outside of the arrivals hall.
- » Trains to and from the airport run from Rhoose Cardiff International Airport every hour from Monday to Friday, and every two hours on Sunday. Shuttle buses connect the station and the airport.
- » Buses link the airport to city center. The bus stop is located outside of the main departure terminal.
- » Long-distance buses connect the airport to other major cities throughout the UK.
- » Most major car rental agencies are represented at the airport.

Swansea

- » Transportation options include cars, taxis, motorcycles, buses, bicycles and trains.
- » The M4 motorway connects the city to both Cardiff and London.
- » Roads are in good condition and are well marked, but are often narrow. There are many roundabouts.
- » Motorists from right-side driving countries may find road networks confusing.



Swansea, continued

- » People often travel by bicycle. There are many cycling paths, including National Cycle Routes 4, 43 and 47.
- » Pedestrian infrastructure is well-developed.
- » Pedestrians should look both ways when crossing streets, even at marked crossings. Many visiting motorists may be unfamiliar with traffic flow and regulations.
- » Buses are operated by First South West Wales. Local routes are well-developed.
- » There is frequent long-distance bus service from Cardiff, London and Heathrow Airport in England. Providers include National Express, FlixBus and Megabus.
- » Swansea Railway Station is the main train station.
- » Use only official taxis bearing yellow license plates.
- » Taxis can be found at queues at rail and bus stations, in city center near St. Mary’s church, and on Caer Street next to Castle Square. Taxis may also be flagged on the street.
- » Rideshare services are available. Use only rideshare services that have a dispatch app providing vehicle description, license plate number and driver’s name. Verify all information before entering vehicle.
- » First Great Western Trains provides links to Cardiff, London Paddington station in England, and other destinations.
- » Local trains are operated by Arriva Trains Wales.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND INCLUSIONS FOR MOBILITY CHALLENGED

- **Laws require** public service providers to make “reasonable adjustments” to make sure access is available to persons with mobility or other physical and/or sensory challenges. This does not apply to the transportation sector.
- **Code exemptions allow** many older buildings to have steps leading from streets to doors.
- **Many city** sidewalks are narrow with uneven surfaces.
- **Wheelchair users** must adhere to the following rules: When using roadways, obey rules for vehicles; on sidewalks, follow rules that apply to pedestrians.
- **Most** London Underground and UK National Rail System stations are not easily accessible to persons with mobility challenges, and may not have elevators. Many stations have stairways and long corridors which must be navigated to change trains or to exit onto the street.
- **Many**, but not all buses are fitted with lowering platforms for persons with limited mobility or other physical or sensory challenges.
- **All London city** black cabs are wheelchair accessible. Many are fitted with swivel-entry seats or retractable ramps to assist with entry.
- **Parking permits** known as “blue badges” are issued by local government councils to persons with mobility challenges. To obtain a blue badge, visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-blue-badge>. Some councils may not offer permits to temporary visitors.
- **Travelers** who need extra assistance may use the national Passenger Assist service to request support from rail staff in order to navigate stations, board or change trains. Assistance may be requested via the Passenger Assistance by Transport app, by calling 0800 0223720, or texting 60083.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

- **Pre-program** emergency numbers into your phone before departure.
 - » Police, ambulance and fire: 999 or 112
- **Medical care** is regarded as good, and is available throughout the country.
- **Advance payment** for medical services may be required.
- **Orange SOS** emergency phones are located at half-mile intervals from one another along motorways, and are connected directly to emergency services. White and blue poles indicate the location of the nearest phone.
- **In mountainous** and remote areas, it may take first responders longer to reach patients and provide life-saving care.

Emergency Information, continued

- **If involved in a crash:**
 - » Stop vehicle and activate warning/hazard lights.
 - » Call emergency services.
 - » Move uninjured drivers to safety; do not move anyone who is injured.
 - » Remain at the scene until authorities arrive if livestock or other animals have been harmed.
 - » Collect contact information from other driver(s) and any witnesses.



ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION FOR SAFE INTERNATIONAL ROAD TRAVEL (ASIRT)

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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