

Driving Abroad Checklist

By Bianca Hendriks

- Before you Go
 - Familiarize yourself with the driving laws of the country you are visiting.
 - Check local speed limits and which side of the road you should drive on.
 - Make sure you have adequate travel insurance.
 - Check whether you need a Green Card for the country you're visiting.
 - Check that your driver's licence is legally valid to drive in the countries you intend to drive in.
 - Have your car checked by a qualified mechanic before you leave.
 - Ensure you carry any necessary spares.
 - Check you can comply with the vehicle requirements of the countries you'll visit.
 - Make sure to have good route map and road map of your destination countries.
 - If you have a navigation device, check that it has current maps for the country you're driving to.
- Items to Take
 - Passports.
 - Car insurance.
 - A valid full driving licence.
 - The original vehicle registration document.
 - A spare set of car keys (not kept in the car).
 - In Italy, Spain, Portugal, Austria and Croatia you are required by law to have two reflective waistcoats or jackets.
 - A warning triangle in your car (in Spain you are required to carry two).
 - A first aid kit (required in Austria).
 - Fire extinguisher (many countries require it).
- Whilst You are Away
 - Drive defensively and expect the unexpected.
 - Never drive too fast for local conditions.
 - Don't drive when you're tired.
 - Always wear a seat belt.

- Don't drink and drive.
- Don't use your mobile whilst driving.
- Don't overload your vehicle.
- Don't tempt thieves by leaving belongings in the car.
- Don't forget to store your navigation away safely.