

Driving

Car

Please remember that vehicles in the UK are right hand drive and are driven on the left hand side of the road. Most vehicles available for hire in the UK are stick shift and not automatic transmission, although automatic transmission vehicles may be obtained from the Car Hire Company upon request.

Driving in the UK as a visitor

The rules concerning the driving of civilian vehicles in the UK by visitors from overseas are governed by the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Authority.

Those rules are summarised below:

Age

Minimum age is 17 for cars and motorcycles and 18 for medium vehicles.

European Licences

Holders of licences issued in the following countries can drive any vehicle in Great Britain, providing the licence remains valid and the full entitlement of the vehicle being driven is shown on the licence.

All EU Countries and European Economic Area

Austria	Greece	Netherlands
Belgium	Hungary	Norway
Bulgaria	Iceland	Poland
Cyprus	Ireland	Portugal
Czech Rep	Italy	Romania
Denmark	Latvia	Slovakia
Estonia	Liechtenstein	Slovenia
Finland	Lithuania	Spain
France	Luxembourg	Sweden
Sweden	Malta	

Gibraltar and Designated Countries

Holders of licences from the following countries may drive vehicles in the UK on their licence up to 3.5 tonnes and with up to 8 passengers, (European Cat C1 licence equivalent), providing the full licence or driving permit remains valid for up to 12 months from the date of entering UK.

Australia	Gibraltar	Republic of Korea
Barbados	Hong Kong	Singapore
British Virgin Islands	Japan	South Africa
Canada	Kenya	Switzerland
Falklands	Monaco	Zimbabwe
Faroe Islands	New Zealand	

A UK Driving Test must be passed before the year expires, if the driver continues driving in the UK. If the driver is from a country where a reciprocal agreement with the UK exists then the UK driving test will not be required.

Buying a Vehicle in the UK

If a student attending British Army training decides to purchase a vehicle whilst in the UK then they must comply with the following British Laws:

- Have valid motor insurance.
- Have a valid Road Fund licence disc (available from Post Offices).
- Hold a valid Ministry of Transport Test Certificate (MOT) from an approved testing garage.

Warning: The penalties for driving whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the UK are severe.