

Driving In Greece

Driving in Greece is very different from driving in UK so it takes a little getting used to.

Greece has the highest car accident rate in Europe so take your time when you first move over and make sure you are confident before making long journeys and stay safe.

In order to drive legally in Greece, you must have your full UK license and be at least 18 years of age. Similar to many other countries in Europe, Greece has a legal driving age of 18, so you can't drive there aged 17, even if you have a full UK license. If you are even thinking about this, you should be aware of the consequences of it. You may find yourself facing a hefty fine or have your vehicle impounded. Trying to recover your vehicle when you don't speak the language can be tough, so think carefully before breaking the law.

In Greece, anyone riding in the front of the car must ensure they are wearing seatbelts. They're not legally required to be worn in the back, but with such a high accident rate, it is worth ensuring that everyone in the car has belted up. Children under the age of 10 aren't allowed to ride in the front of the vehicle, so make sure they are safely belted up in the back. It is illegal to use your cell phone if driving in Greece and if you're caught doing so you can be fined.

Although there are strict speeding laws in Greece, many locals completely ignore them and you'll often see cars speeding past you with no thought for your safety or that of those around them. Try to remain calm and don't get involved in 'racing' or trying to overtake some of these drivers. They're familiar with the road and are generally used to driving in such a manner, as unsafe as it may be. Learn the local speed limits before you go and stick to them at all times.

Motorway speeds – 120km

Open roads – 100km

Urban roads – 50km

One of the most common problems with speeding in Greece is that there are a large number of motorbikes, mopeds and other two wheel vehicles around. They often weave in and out of the traffic, putting themselves and others at risk. If you're speeding it's very difficult to

keep track of where these vehicles are so slow down a little and stay focused on everyone around you.

Another important aspect of driving in Greece to remember is that the drink driving limit is 50mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. If you're caught driving over the limit, you can be fine or could lose your licence.

Greeks drive completely different to British, so don't worry if at first you feel a little overwhelmed. There are a number of different road rules to consider when driving there.

- You may be fined for using your horn without good reason
- Mountainous roads are extremely dangerous, slow down at all times
- Highways have a white line along the nearside. This allows slower traffic to pull across it to allow for overtaking
- Get your fuel when you can. Service stations are generally closed on a Sunday and don't usually open past 7pm every night
- Parking is forbidden within 9 feet of a fire hydrant so watch out for them
- Carry loose change with you as there are a few toll roads that require you to pay in cash
- Drive on the right hand side of the road!
- Dial 112 for emergency help, 100 for police or 199 for ambulance

Once again just take your time getting used to the roads and the way the Greeks drive and you will be fine.