

PER I TURISTI STRANIERI: GUIDARE IN ITALIA



BUS AND TAXI LANES

Driving on the lanes specially reserved for public transport is forbidden. Such lanes are identified by means of special road signs and yellow road markings.

FINE for non-compliance (article 7, paragraph 14, Italian Highway Code): 81 to 326 Euros.

PENALTY POINTS on driving licence (article 146, paragraph 2, Italian Highway Code): -2 out of 20 full starting points.

RESTRICTED TRAFFIC AREAS (“Zona a Traffico Limitato” ZTL)

In Restricted Traffic Areas (ZTL) a no thoroughfare is in force for private vehicles, except at certain time of day – usually early morning and late afternoon. Weekdays and hours when accessing ZTLs is possible vary from town to town, according to local ordinances.

Warning: make sure you avoid restricted traffic areas in the historical centres of Italian cities or remember to pay attention to information signs at the entrance to ZTLs.

Anytime a vehicle enters or exits a restricted traffic area (Zona Traffico Limitato - ZTL), cameras take a picture of the license plate. The photo is automatically sent to a computer of the Municipal Police and if the license plate is not registered in the relevant database a violation ticket is generated and sent to the vehicle's owner.

Restricted traffic areas are clearly indicated by a sign showing a white circle with red borders (see picture below), stating the hours in which the area is restricted. In the picture above the ZTL is in force every day from 8AM to 8PM.



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In the picture below the crossed hammers indicate that the ZTL does not apply on Sundays and holidays. The ZTL is in force every day from 7.30AM to 7.30PM. Motorcycles are allowed to enter the area, except the EURO 1, from 10AM to 12AM and from 3PM to 5PM.



In the picture below, "VARCO NON ATTIVO" indicates that you can enter the ZTL, whereas the wording "VARCO ATTIVO" means that vehicles are not admitted unless they are covered by a special permit. Of course, the first mention is displayed during non-restricted hours and the second during restricted hours.



If your hotel or parking garage is located within a ZTL, please check beforehand whether they can take care to pass your car registration number to the Municipal Police. This is possible in some city centres only.

FINE for non-compliance (article 7, paragraph 14, Italian Highway Code): 81 to 326 Euros.

PENALTY POINTS on driving licence: 0 out of 20 full starting points.



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ROUNDABOUTS

On approaching a roundabout, priority signs or road markings indicate the right of way. If there are no traffic signs or road markings (stop- or give way signs), priority to the right applies.

Roundabouts are considered as an intersection by the Italian Highway Code and exit from roundabouts is subject to the same rules as a turn.

Drivers approaching an intersection must pay special attention to avoid any accident; they are required to slow down both on approaching and leaving roundabouts and be ready to give way. Special attention must be paid to nearby pedestrian crossings.

FINE for non-compliance with speed limits (article 141 paragraph 8, Italian Highway Code): 85 to 338 Euros. The fine amount can be increased by one third if the offence occurs between 10PM and 7AM.

PENALTY POINTS on driving licence: 5 out of 20 full starting points.

FINE for non-compliance with right of way rule: (article 145, paragraph 10, Italian Highway Code): 163 to 652 Euros. The fine amount can be increased by one third if the offence occurs between 10PM and 7AM.

PENALTY POINTS on driving licence: 5 out of 20 full starting points.

Correct behaviour on roundabouts includes special attention not to cut in on somebody when approaching and leaving the roundabout and when changing lane on the roundabout.

FINE for non-compliance with rules about change of direction and/or lane: (article 154, paragraph 8, Italian Highway Code): 41 to 169 Euros. The fine amount can be increased by one third if the offence occurs between 10PM and 7AM.

PENALTY POINTS on driving licence: 2 out of 20 full starting points.

More information about [one-lane](#) and [multi-lane](#) roundabouts.

