



Automobile Club d'Italia



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

MOTORWAYS

Some vehicles* are prohibited on motorways**.

Italian motorways are operated by various concessionaires and are indicated by green road signs. Access to Italian motorways is generally subject to charge.

Tolls*** are based on the type of vehicle and distance (in kilometres) driven. They can be paid at the toll booths in cash or by debit/credit/prepaid card.

Foreign motorists holding a credit card issued in Italy – exclusively Carta Sì (Visa or Mastercard), Agos, American Express – or having a bank account with an Italian bank that includes shop-online services can subscribe to the Telepass service and use “Telepass lanes”.

Foreign motorists can also pay the tolls using a *Viacard a scalare***** (pre-paid Viacard). In this case no account with an Italian bank is needed.

In case, for any reason, the toll is unpaid or partially paid, a Failure to Pay Report is issued*****.

If you do not collect the entry ticket at the gate or lose it, then the toll is based on the furthest motorway entry point. Detailed information can be provided by the concessionaire operating the relevant motorway stretch.

On motorways there are signs indicating the distance (in km) to the next filling/service station.

As a general rule, drivers must responsibly adjust the vehicle speed according to the vehicle type, load and weather conditions.

Unless otherwise indicated, the maximum speed limit is 130 km/h – reduced to 110 km/h in case of bad weather conditions. On some highway sections with three lanes and emergency lane in each direction of travel, and equipped with speed detectors, the motorway owners/concessionaires can raise the speed limit up to 150 km/h, as indicated by road signs.

Speed is monitored by traffic police through different technologies (e.g. fixed cameras, average speed camera, etc.), which are clearly indicated. In particular, the Safety Tutor system detects the average speed between two points and compares it with the maximum speed allowed on the same stretch.

Drivers exceeding the speed limit are subject to different types of sanctions*****.

Useful traffic information such as current roadworks, journey times, regulations in force, expected delays and mandatory exits is provided by means of variable information panels.



In Italy, driving is on the right. Drivers must keep the rightmost lane of the carriageway. Left lanes are reserved for overtaking. Driving on the emergency lane is forbidden, since this is reserved for rescue and emergency vehicles, and for emergency stops.

A safe distance must be maintained to avoid a collision in case the vehicle in front stops suddenly.

Rest areas are available along motorways for road users to stop and take a break during their journey. Camping and staying overnight are not permitted.

* Vehicles prohibited on motorways are:

- velocipedes, mopeds, motorbikes under 150 cc if powered by a combustion engine, or under 11 kW if powered by an electric motor, as well as combustion engine-powered side-cars under 250 cc
- other motorbikes with an unladen weight of up to 400 kilograms or a gross vehicle weight of up to 1300 kilograms, with the exception of tricycles over 250 cc if powered by a combustion engine and in any case over 15 kW, intended for transporting passengers (maximum one passenger in addition to the driver)
- vehicles not fitted with tires
- agricultural machines and operating machines
- vehicles with unsecured loads or overhanging loads exceeding legal limits
- vehicles with no watertight compartment or uncovered loads, if carrying materials that can be dispersed
- vehicles whose load or dimensions exceed the legal limits, subject to exceptions
- vehicles whose general conditions, equipment and tyre conditions can be dangerous
- vehicles carrying loads not properly stowed and secured. Vehicles belonging to the motorways owners/concessionaires or to their authorised parties are not subject to the general rule.

** "A motorway is an extra-urban or urban multi-carriageway road having the following characteristics: carriageways are independent or separated by permanent barriers; each carriageway has at least two lanes and possibly a hard shoulder on the right side; junctions are not at the same surface level of carriageways and there are not private joining ways; permanent fencing and motorists assistance systems are in place all along the motorway, which is reserved for some kind of motorised vehicles and is marked by specific entry/exit signals. Motorways are equipped with service/rest areas accessible via dedicated entry/exit sideways." (Article 2, paragraph 3 of the Italian Highway Code).

*** Fees are calculated as follows: multiply the unit fare by the number of kilometres driven and add 22% VAT, then round up or down to the nearest 10 cents. The unit fare depends on the vehicle type, based on its height and number of axles, as well as on the characteristics of the motorway section travelled and the concessionaire operating the section.

**** The *Viacard a scalare* card is a prepaid magnetic card, available in denominations of 25, 50 and 75 Euros. It can be used to pay tolls at both automatic booths, by following vocal instructions, and manned booths, by handing to the operator the Viacard along with the entrance ticket. It can be purchased at:

- Blue Points on the motorway network
- Autostrade per l'Italia manned booths
- Autogrills (motorway restaurants)
- ACI (Automobile Club of Italy) offices
- some banks
- numerous tobacco shops



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➤ the main petrol stations on motorways.

**** This is a receipt certifying unpaid or partially-paid tolls issued at both manned and automatic (Telepass, Viacard) booths. It shows the vehicle and transit data, the amount to be paid and the method of payment. By paying within 15 days after the receipt is issued, motorists will not bear additional charges.

***** Fines for exceeding speed limits by up to 10 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 7 of the Italian Highway Code.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 10 km/h and up to 40 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 8 of the Italian Highway Code.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 40 km/h and up to 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9 of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 1 to 3 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will face from 8 to 18 months of driving ban.

Fines for exceeding speed limits by more than 60 km/h are provided for in Article 142, paragraph 9-bis of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 6 to 12 months also applies. Drivers committing this violation again within two years will have their driving licence revoked.

The fines provided for in Article 142 are increased by one third, if the violation is committed between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Article 195 of the Italian Highway Code).

Sanctions are doubled, if speed limit violations are committed at the wheel of specific types of vehicles.

Newly licenced drivers (holding a licence for less than three years) must not exceed 100 km/h. Fines for non-compliance are provided for in article 117, paragraph 5 of the Italian Highway Code. A driving ban from 2 to 8 months also applies.