



Automobile Club d'Italia



DRIVING IN ITALY: INFORMATION FOR VISITING MOTORISTS

BUS AND TAXI LANES

It is forbidden to drive on the lanes reserved for public transport. Such lanes are marked by special yellow vertical and horizontal signs.

In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Highway Code apply.

Restricted Traffic Areas (*Zone a Traffico Limitato - ZTL*)

Restricted Traffic Areas (ZTLs henceforth) are zones - mainly in historic city centres - where unauthorized vehicles are prohibited from driving except at certain times, usually early morning and late afternoon. Depending on local regulations, ZTLs access days and hours vary from town to town.

Every time a vehicle enters or exits a ZTL, cameras take a picture of its number plate. The picture is automatically sent to the Municipal Police and, if the vehicle is not authorised to enter the area, a fine is sent to the vehicle owner.

The ZTLs are marked by signs bearing a white circle with red borders (as in the picture below) indicating the hours when access is not permitted. In this picture, the ZTL is in force from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.





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In the image below, the crossed hammers indicate that the ZTL only applies on weekdays (exclusive of Sundays and bank holidays) from 7.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. and that Euro 1 mopeds cannot enter the Zone from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.



In the picture below, "VARCO NON ATTIVO" indicates that vehicles can enter the ZTL, whereas the wording "VARCO ATTIVO" means that only authorised vehicles can access the ZTL.



In case of non-compliance, the sanctions provided for in Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Italian Motorway Code apply.



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Roundabouts

On approaching a roundabout, specific signs can indicate the right of way. If there are no traffic signs or road markings (stop or give way signs), it is mandatory to give way to vehicles coming from the right.

Drivers approaching a roundabout must exercise the utmost caution to avoid accidents, regulate their speed both when entering and exiting, and pay attention when changing lanes, being careful not to cut off other motorists and being ready to give way to other vehicles. Special attention must be paid to any pedestrian crossings.

In case of non-compliance with speed limits, the sanctions provided for in Article 141 paragraph 8 of the Italian Motorway Code apply. In case of non-compliance with the right of way rules, the sanctions provided for in Article 145 paragraph 10 of the Italian Motorway Code apply.

In case of non-compliance with the rules on the change of direction and/or lane, the sanctions provided for in Article 154 paragraph 8 of the Italian Motorway Code apply. See more below about single-lane roundabouts* and multi-lane roundabouts**.

* When entering a single-lane roundabout, you must:

- Keep to the right when entering
- Signal right if you want to take the first exit on the right
- If you want to take any farther exit on the right, you have to signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take.

** The above is also valid for multi-lane roundabouts, but pay attention to the lane you choose when travelling.

- If you intend to take the first exit on the right, keep right when entering the roundabout and signal right. If you want to take any farther exit on the right, you have to signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take.
- If you need to go straight on the same road, keep right when entering the roundabout and signal right only after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take. In case of heavy traffic, it is allowed to enter the roundabout using the central lane but to exit the roundabout you must start moving into the utmost right lane in advance.
- If you are approaching the roundabout from the left lane of a road and want to travel on its left lane, keep to the left and signal left when entering, then move into the right lane in advance and signal right after you have passed the exit preceding the one you need to take. In case of heavy traffic, you can enter the roundabout using the right lane, even if you intend to drive on its left lane.