

PER I TURISTI STRANIERI: GUIDARE IN ITALIA



MOTORWAYS

Some vehicles are prohibited from using motorways

Italian motorways are managed by different concessionaries and are always indicated by green signs. Tolls are calculated based on the distance driven in kilometres and the vehicle class. They can be paid at the tollgates in cash or by credit/debit/pre-paid cards.

Foreign motorists holding a credit card issued in Italy – exclusively Carta Sì (Visa or Mastercard), Agos, American Express – or a current account with an Italian bank that includes shop-on line service can subscribe to Telepass service and therefore use “Telepass lanes”, thus avoiding queuing and paying cash.

Foreign motorists can also buy a Telepass on the website www.tolltickets.com, (available in different languages) or pay tolls using a “Viacard a scalare” (pre-paid Viacard). In this cases no current account with an Italian bank is needed.

In case, for any reason, a toll is wholly or partially unpaid, a Payment Notice will be issued. In case of failure to collect/loss of entry toll receipt, payment from the furthest entry point of the motorway is charged. Detailed information can be provided by the Concessionaire managing the relevant highway stretch.

The distance to the next filling station/service area is given on signs (in kilometres).

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

Unless otherwise indicated, the maximum speed limit is 130 km/h (80.78 mph) – reduced to 110 km/h (68.35 mph) in case of bad weather conditions.

A speed limit of 150 km/h (93.21 mph) can be indicated on some motorway sections with 3 lanes + emergency lane in each direction, equipped with speed detectors.

The technology set up for speed control (e.g. fixed speed cameras, safety tutor, etc.) is also indicated. In particular, the Safety Tutor system detects the average speed of vehicles on a motorway stretch limited by two points and compares it with the maximum speed allowed on the same stretch.

Breaking of speed limits leads to different types of penalties.

Useful traffic information - on road-works, expected delays, regulations in force, congestions, compulsory exits, etc. - is provided by means of variable-message signs.

Italy drives on the right. Drivers must keep the rightmost free lane of the road. The left lanes are reserved for overtaking. Driving on the emergency lane is forbidden, since this is reserved for rescue and emergency vehicles and emergency stops.



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A safe distance must be maintained to avoid collisions in case the preceding vehicles stops suddenly.

Rest areas are available along the motorways for road users to stop and take a break during their journey. Here short-term parking is free whereas camping and staying overnight are not permitted.

