

Pocket guide tips for a French road trip

Bags packed? Check. Excitement levels at fever pitch? Check. Ready to hit the open road? You sure? There are some important things to remember about driving abroad but, don't worry, because this handy little wallet (or glovebox) friendly fold away guide should provide all the info needed to stay safe on the road.

Emergency number – 112 is the European version of 999. Only to be used in times of severe distress.



Foot off the gas

The French take speeding very seriously and speed limits are implemented rigorously. Carrying speed detecting devices is illegal too so switch off your sat nav camera alerts or you could lose your licence and your car.



Cruise - don't booze

Forget having a drink if you're intending to get behind the wheel. French laws are much stricter than those in the UK. So much so, you will be expected to carry your own breathalyser. Be vigilant.



Be smart

Simple: obey the rules of the road and enjoy your break in peace BUT commit a traffic violation and, be warned, you could face an on-the-spot fine of up to €375. If you are fined make sure you get an official receipt.



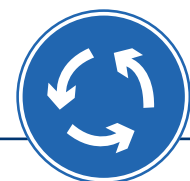
Calling for help

Use the bright orange telephone boxes that are dotted along the motorway and toll roads (roughly every 2km) to contact the local breakdown recovery service.



Carry a hi vis jacket

Most UK drivers will find this one odd but, when in France, you **MUST** carry a high visibility waistcoat **IN** the car (not in the boot) in case you need to leave your vehicle at any point. Also, make sure you have a warning triangle.



Right is right

It may seem obvious but remember that people drive on the right-hand side in France. Keep your eyes peeled for where traffic is coming from and approach junctions with caution.



Don't forget to take me with you

My car has broken down

Ma voiture est tombée en panne

If things do go wrong, don't panic. A few phrases (along with our helpful diagram) should ensure you get the message across.



3 other useful phrases to know

Do you speak English?

Parlez-vous Anglais?

I am lost!

Je suis perdu!

Can you send me a mechanic/breakdown van?

Pouvez-vous m'envoyer quelqu'un/ une dépanneuse?

For more about the rules and regs of driving in France visit
www.swinton.co.uk/car-insurance/guides/driving-abroad/france

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