

European Driving Laws and Restrictions

Here's some additional information for driving through the countries en route to Italy. This is more comprehensive than my first listing, and includes some additional information.

France

Speed Limits	Urban	Open Road	Motorway
Car	50 kph	90 kph	110-130 kph
Wet Weather	50 kph	80 kph	100-110 kph
Towing (up to 3.5 tonnes)	50 kph	90 kph	110-130 kph
Traffic Regulations			
Essential Equipment	Warning triangle, spare bulbs		
Minimum driving age	18 yrs		
Drink Drive Limit	50mg alcohol per 100ml blood		
Child in front seat	Minimum age 10 yrs (except babies up to 9 months in a rear-facing child seat)		
Seat belts	Compulsory in front and rear seats		
Emergency telephone nos.			
Police	17		
Fire	18		
Ambulance	15		
More useful phrases!			
Allumez vos lanternes	Switch on headlights		
Attention travaux	Roadworks ahead		
Chaussée déformée	Poor road surface		
Déviation	Diversion		
Gravillons	Loose chippings		
Parking payant	Charge for parking		
Péage	Road toll		
Ralentissez	Slow down		
Rappel	Restriction continues (as in speed limit)		
Route barrée	Road closed		
Stationnement interdit	No parking		

Germany

Speed Limits	Urban	Open Road	Motorway
Car	50 kph	100 kph	130 kph
Towing	50 kph	80 kph	80 kph
Traffic Regulations			
Essential Equipment	Warning triangle		
Minimum driving age	17 yrs		
Drink Drive Limit	50mg alcohol per 100ml blood		
Child in front seat	Minimum age 12 yrs / 1.5m unless using a child restraint		
Seat belts	Compulsory in front and rear seats		
Emergency telephone nos.			
Police	112		
Fire	112		
Ambulance	112		
More useful phrases!			
Achtung	Attention		
Ausfahrt	Exit		
Bei Nasse	In wet weather		
Gefahr	Danger		
Licht einschalten	Turn on headlamps		
Olspur	Oil on road		
Parkplatz	Parking lot		
Rasthof	Service area		
Rollsplitt	Loose chippings		
Schlechte wegstrecke	Uneven road		
Stau	Traffic congestion		
Tankstelle	Filling station		
Vorfahrt	Right of way		

Switzerland

Speed Limits	Urban	Open Road	Motorway
Car	50 kph	80-100 kph	120 kph
Towing	50 kph	80 kph*	80 kph
	*60 kph if laden weight exceeds 1000kg		
Traffic Regulations			
Essential Equipment	Warning triangle, spare glasses if you need them to drive (don't ask me - I'm as puzzled as you!)		
Minimum driving age	18 yrs		
Drink Drive Limit	80mg alcohol per 100ml blood		
Child in front seat	Minimum age 7 yrs unless using a child restraint		
Seat belts	Compulsory in front and rear seats		
Emergency telephone nos.			
Police	117		
Fire	118		
Ambulance	144		
More useful phrases!			
See France, Germany and Italy. Being situated where they are, the Swiss are, majoritavely, multi-lingual.	It is compulsory to use dipped headlights in tunnels.		

Their road signs may be given any of the three languages.	
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Vignette

A Vignette is required to use the Swiss motorways, but unlike Austria only one type is available, and this covers you for a year (to be precise, the 14 months from December 1st to January 31st). Vignettes are available at border crossings service stations and post offices. Alternatively, if you're that way inclined, in advance from the Switzerland Travel Centre, 10 Wardour Street, London W1D 6FQ. The cost of the vignette was CHF 40 (about £17.60), when I drove through Switzerland. If you are towing a trailer you have to buy two!

Italy

Speed Limits	Urban	Open Road	Motorway
Car	50 kph	90-100 kph	130-150kph
Towing	50 kph	70 kph	80 kph
Traffic Regulations			
Essential Equipment	Warning triangle		
Minimum driving age	18 yrs		
Drink Drive Limit	50mg alcohol per 100ml blood		
Child in front seat	Minimum age 12 yrs unless using a child restraint		
Seat belts	Compulsory in front and rear seats		
Emergency telephone nos.			
Police	112		
Fire	115		
Ambulance	118		
More useful phrases!			

Destra	Right
Incrocio	Crossroads
Lavori in corso	Roadworks
Nord	North
Rallentare	Slow down
Senso unico	One-way street
Senso vietato	No entry
Sinistra	Left
Sosta vietata	No Parking
Sud	South
Svolta	Bend or turning
Tornante	Winding Road
Uscita	Exit

It is now mandatory to use dipped headlamps at all times outside built-up areas.