

Budgetcampervans.com/Belgium FAQ's Jan 14

Brussels is the only depot that we currently hire campervans and motorhomes from in Belgium.

Lille is the next best option and also has really cheap campers for rent. This is the Lille fleet:



Select France and then Lille to hire these vehicles and you can travel into Belgium and return to Lille saving money on the daily rates as these are the campervans and motorhomes available from Brussels:

Or hire from Germany and pick up in Cologne. There is a larger choice of motorhomes and the smaller, cheaper campers are available there too.

Belgium is a beautiful country with great facilities and campsites.

<http://www.visitbelgium.com/> has useful general information about Belgium

<http://www.camping.be/> for campsites



Flanders

The northern, Dutch-speaking region of the country. It includes well known cities like Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges.

Brussels

The bilingual capital region of the country and headquarters of the EU.

Wallonia

The southern, French-speaking region, incorporating a small German speaking region in the east near the German border.

Flanders

The northern, Dutch-speaking region of the country. It includes well known cities like Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges.

Don't forget to take...

Driving licences issued abroad can be used in Belgium only by visitors who have reached the minimum ages required for holders of Belgian licences for the same category of vehicle.

A foreign driving licence does not entitle the holder to drive a motor vehicle in Belgium until the age of 18yrs old. You can drive the sleeper cars from Lille at 21 and the larger motorhomes in Brussels if you are 25 or over.

Visitors may drive private or commercial vehicles, registered either in Belgium (hired or borrowed) or abroad (temporarily imported), if they are in possession of the following:
International Driving Permits (1926, 1949, 1968)

Important documents: Vehicles from the UK may be imported into Belgium for up to 6 months in any period of 12 months.

When driving in Belgium the following documents should be carried:

Full, valid driving licence* (with paper counterpart)

International Driving Permit (1926, 1949, 1968) (Available from <http://www.rac.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit>)

Proof of insurance (third party or above)

Proof of ID (Passport) Proof of ownership (V5C Certificate)

Visitors driving in Belgium are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items: Reflective jackets (must be worn if involved in a breakdown or an accident or alongside a road where stopping or parking is prohibited) Warning triangle (compulsory in every vehicle with 4 wheels or more) Headlamp beam deflectors (depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually)

Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)

RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

Source: All information in this document is sourced from the AIT (Alliance Internationale de Tourisme) & the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) and, to the best of the RAC's knowledge and ours, is correct at the time of publication (August 2013).

First aid kit & fire extinguisher (vehicles registered in Belgium must carry both, but this is not compulsory for vehicles registered abroad)

Rules of the road & regulations:

Overtaking & passing

When overtaking a cyclist or moped rider there should be a distance of least 1m between them and the overtaking vehicle.

When the size of the carriageway makes passing difficult, the driver may use the side of the footway provided that pedestrians are not put in any danger.

Priority

Priority must be given to all vehicles coming from the right, except where the driver coming from the right is driving the wrong way in a one-way street.

However, vehicles on rails (trams) **always** have **priority over all other users**, whether on the right or on the left.

In built-up areas, a driver must slow down or stop for bus drivers who have indicated that they intend driving away from the bus stop.

Priority at pedestrian crossings

When approaching a pedestrian crossing where traffic is not controlled by traffic lights or by a traffic officer, drivers must slow down and give way to pedestrians already on the crossing or who are about to step on it.

Warning of approach

Warning signals must be as brief as possible. Audible warning should not be given unless there is no other way of avoiding an accident. Outside built-up areas, audible warning devices may be used as a warning to road users of the intention to overtake.

Between nightfall and dawn, except in the case of imminent danger, audible warning signals should be replaced by flashing headlights.

Seat belts:

Any person must wear a seat belt whenever one is fitted on the front and rear seats in all vehicles registered in Belgium or abroad.

Travelling with children:

A child less than 1.35m travelling in a car, van or lorry, must be seated in a child seat or child restraint. Where a child restraint/seat is not available, a child 3 years and over, measuring less than 1.35 m, must travel in the rear seat of the vehicle using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat. If the child is under 3 years old he/she may not be transported in a vehicle without child restraint/seat, except in a taxi.

Speed Limits:

The following national speed limits apply:

Motorways Other roads, normal traffic conditions **120 km/h 90 km/h.**

Unless otherwise indicated by the appropriate sign, vehicles must observe a minimum speed limit of 70 km/h on motorways, except when traffic is congested or conditions are dangerous. Vehicles which cannot reach a speed of 70 km/h on straight level stretches must not use motorways.

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In residential areas the maximum speed is 20 km/h.

Certain zones, indicated by appropriate signs, have a speed limit of **30 km/h.**

On roads with humps, drivers must approach with care and at a moderate pace so as to pass over them at a speed not exceeding 30 km/h.

A car navigation system with maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras is permitted, but equipment which actively searches for speed cameras or interferes with police equipment is prohibited.

Penalties: On-the-spot fines

The police may impose on-the-spot fines to visitors who infringe traffic regulations.

Traffic offences

There are **4 categories** of road traffic offences:

Level 1:

- o Not wearing a seat belt
- o Parking offence not causing a danger
- o Driving in a bus lane

Level 2:

- o Using a hand-held mobile phone when driving
- o Parking offence causing a danger to others, for example on a pavement, in a disabled bay, near a junction
- o Non-observance of the orange traffic light

Level 3:

- o Infringement of passing rules
- o Not stopping at a red traffic light
- o Overtaking when prohibited

Level 4:

- o Dangerous overtaking, in a bend or near the top of a hill
- o Crossing a railway crossing when prohibited by lights
- o Reversing or doing a U-turn on a motorway

Confiscation of vehicles

The police can confiscate a vehicle which is not insured. They can impound a vehicle under certain circumstances, e.g. if the load is unsafe or if the driver tests positive for alcohol.

In certain circumstances, a tribunal can order the seizure or the confiscation of a vehicle which has been involved in a serious offence.

Parking: Parking regulations

Any vehicle standing must have its engine switched off, unless absolutely necessary.

Any vehicle standing (for the time necessary to load or unload persons or goods) or parked must be left on the right-hand side of the road, except in the case of a one way street when it can be left on either side (but see also below).

Paid parking

Paid parking is regulated by parking meters or automatic parking machines; methods of payment and parking conditions are specified on the machines in question. Where these exist inside blue zones, parking discs must not be used, except when the parking meter or ticket machine is out of action.

Enforcement of parking regulations

Wheel clamps are sometimes used to immobilise vehicles which are not legally insured. They are not used to penalise drivers who have illegally parked their vehicles.

Disabled parking access Foreign disabled permits are recognised in Belgium.

Special parking places are reserved for the disabled. These are indicated by **sign E23**, with the addition of the international symbol.

Badge holders may also park without time limit where parking time is otherwise restricted by road signs, in blue zones and by parking meters.

Traffic lights & Road Signs:

Traffic lights

The international three-colour traffic light system is used.

Green, amber and red arrows are used at some intersections.

Drink/drug driving Legal limit

The present legal limit is 0.05% of alcohol in the blood (ie: 0.5g of alcohol per litre of blood) or 0.22mg per litre of exhaled air.

Alcohol

Anybody driving, about to drive or presumed to be the author of an accident (even as a pedestrian), may have to undergo a breath test on the spot.

If the test is positive (i.e. shows there is between 0.05% and 0.08% of alcohol in the blood), the person is not allowed to drive for at least three hours, their driving licence is withdrawn for that period.

If the alcohol level is 0.08% or more or if the driver refuses to undergo the test, he is not allowed to drive for at least 6 hours.

Roads & fuel Belgian motorways are currently **toll-free except** for vehicles of 12t +.

Service areas

There are service areas with a petrol station, restaurant, shop, showers and toilets, and sometimes a motel. Rest areas have picnic facilities.

Availability of fuel

Unleaded petrol, diesel oil and lubricating oil are readily available throughout Belgium. The fuel SP95-E10, which contains up to 10% of ethanol and 90% of unleaded 95 petrol, is available. This fuel can be used in 60% of petrol-driven cars, especially in recent models.

Price of fuel

(July 2013) Mainland Belgium and Balearic Islands

Unleaded petrol (95 octane) 1.707 EUR per litre Unleaded petrol (98 octane) 1.763 EUR per litre

Diesel 1.488 EUR per litre LPG 0.669 EUR per litre.

Means of payment

Credit cards are generally accepted at petrol stations.

Automatic petrol pumps

Automatic petrol pumps are found in some large towns.

Emergencies

Emergency telephones linked to an SOS telephone network are installed at 2 km intervals along the motorways.

Source: RAC