



THE WESTERN EUROPE ROAD TRIP GUIDE

Plan well. Drive well. Enjoy the detours.

TOLLS & VIGNETTES

DRIVING ETIQUETTE

FUEL & OVERNIGHT STOPS

12 COUNTRY NOTES

For all makes and models, with routes from France

Edition 1 • September 2026

Contents & getting started

SAMPLE PREVIEW

For all makes and models • 12 western European countries commonly reached from France.

Find what you need

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Use this guide as a preparation checklist. Toll prices, road rules and border requirements can change; confirm your route and vehicle against the official sources on page 20 just before departure.

A sensible planning order

- ☐ Choose the destination and season, then check mountain passes, ferry or tunnel crossings, and likely driving hours.
- ☐ Mark the countries and cities you will enter. Check tolls, vignettes and urban emission zones for each, not just the destination.
- ☐ Verify passport / residence documents for every traveller, licence, insurance territory, assistance cover and vehicle papers.
- ☐ Book the first and last night; hold a flexible plan for the middle unless it is a peak holiday, event or accessible-room requirement.
- ☐ Create a realistic daily limit with food, fuel, transfers and rest stops. A 500 km route is not five hours of uninterrupted life.

KEEP THESE HANDY

Save an offline map, your insurer / breakdown contact, and the toll or zone account you use. Screenshot confirmations before losing mobile signal.

Tolls, badges and vignettes

[SAMPLE PREVIEW](#)

The toll badge, motorway vignette and city emission permit solve different problems.

Barrier tolls and automatic lanes

France, Italy and parts of Spain and Portugal use toll roads. A compatible electronic badge can let you use marked lanes and consolidate billing. For journeys starting in France, compare a France / Spain / Portugal / Italy option from operators such as Bip&Go or Ulys. Check the countries activated, vehicle class, fees and delivery time before ordering.

Before entering a dedicated lane

- ☐ Fit the badge where its operator instructs, verify the registration / payment card and carry a backup card.
- ☐ Read the lane symbol: dedicated electronic lanes are for compatible devices. Do not follow a lorry into a lane because it looks empty.
- ☐ Keep the same payment method for an entry and exit ticket where the toll system requires it. Keep receipts if a barrier or device fails.

Motorway vignettes

Switzerland uses a motorway vignette for eligible vehicles, sold officially as a sticker or e-vignette. Austria uses vignettes on much of its motorway network, plus separate charges on some sections. Buy from official operators and verify number plate, vehicle category and start date. Austria's online consumer purchase of a two-month or annual digital vignette has an 18-day validity delay; check current exceptions and shorter products.

NOT A UNIVERSAL PASS

The France-to-Italy toll badge does not replace a Swiss or Austrian vignette, and a motorway vignette does not grant entry to a city emission zone.

Country notes: France to Luxembourg

SAMPLE PREVIEW

One planning priority per country. Verify current charges, restrictions and entry rules for your exact route.

FRANCE

Toll motorways are common; a compatible badge speeds up marked lanes. Check Crit'Air / local low-emission rules before entering a city. Compare supermarket fuel stops with autoroute services.

CHECK: [autoroutes.fr](https://www.autoroutes.fr) • certificat-air.gouv.fr

BELGIUM

Motorway driving is generally simple for private cars. Brussels LEZ requires foreign plates (except Dutch plates) to register before entry; other city rules must be checked separately.

CHECK: lez.brussels

NETHERLANDS

Plan parking before city centres, give cyclists room and check municipality diesel-zone rules. Many trips can avoid urban car use altogether.

CHECK: government.nl / milieuzones.nl

LUXEMBOURG

A useful cross-border transit hub. Check current local parking and fuel prices rather than assuming savings; village and city routes are slower than they appear on a map.

CHECK: europa.eu/youreurope