

Cyprus road signs and driving rules: glovebox card

Republic of Cyprus · drive on the left · 100/80/65/50 km/h · 22 µg alcohol limit · 2020 fixed fines · verified 20 September 2026

The 20 signs to know in week one

PRIORITY AND PROHIBITION

 Stop Full stop at the line, even if the road looks empty.	 Give way Yield to traffic on the road you are joining.	 Priority road You have priority at the junctions ahead.	 No entry One-way street or closed road; do not enter.
 Speed limit Maximum in km/h until the end sign or a new limit.	 End of limit The default limit for the road type applies again.	 No overtaking Stay behind; the same applies on a continuous white line.	 No parking Stopping to drop off is allowed, parking is not.
 No stopping Not even for a moment; common near junctions.	 No horn Near hospitals and schools; use the horn only to avoid danger.		

MANDATORY AND INFORMATION

 Roundabout Clockwise; give way to traffic coming from your right.	 One way Traffic flows only in the direction of the arrow.	 Keep left Pass the obstacle or island on its left side.	 Pedestrian crossing Stop for anyone waiting to cross; overtaking here costs €200.
 Motorway 100 km/h maximum, 65 minimum; no learners, no mopeds.			

WARNINGS

 Danger ahead A hazard the other triangles do not cover; slow down.	 Children School or playground; 30 km/h zones are often signed here.	 Road works Temporary lower limit; cameras are used at works sites.	 Animals crossing Goats and sheep on rural roads, especially at dusk.
 Slippery road First rain after a dry summer lifts the oil; brake early.			

Sign drawings are simplified schematics to teach shape, colour and meaning; they are not the official artwork of the Road Transport Department.

Speed and alcohol limits

WHERE	LIMIT	NOTE
Motorway (A1 to A9)	100 km/h	Minimum 65 km/h; driving below it is a fixed penalty too
Expressway / open road	80 km/h	Unless a lower limit is signed
Where signed	65 km/h	Dual carriageways and approaches to towns
Built-up areas	50 km/h	30 km/h zones exist near schools
Alcohol, general	22 µg/100 ml breath	Equal to 50 mg/100 ml blood; stricter than England's 35 µg
Alcohol, new and professional	9 µg/100 ml breath	Licence under 3 years, learners, motorcycle and moped riders, taxi drivers on duty, bus and lorry drivers, dangerous-goods drivers

Source: Road Safety Cyprus penalty tables and speed-camera FAQ (roadsafetycyprus.gov.cy), Motor Insurers' Fund penalty notice of 1 October 2020. All figures re-checked 20 September 2026.

Rules that differ from home

- **Drive on the left, overtake on the right.** Keep to the inside lane on motorways except to pass; undertaking is an offence.
- **Roundabouts run clockwise.** Give way to traffic already on the roundabout, which comes from your right. Signal left before your exit.
- **No turn on red.** A red light means stop until green or a green filter arrow; there is no free left turn.
- **Continuous white line means no crossing.** Overtaking across it, on a bend, at a junction or near a crossing is a €150 fixed penalty; crossing the line itself is €65 and 2 points.
- **Hands-free only.** Holding a phone is €150 and 2 points; holding anything else while driving (a coffee, a sandwich) is €85.
- **Everyone belts up, in every seat.** €150 for the driver, a passenger or a child without a proper seat; the fine doubles on a repeat within three years.
- **Hire cars wear red plates.** Locals expect a hesitant driver behind red plates and usually give you room; there is no downside to keeping them.
- **No smoking with a minor in the car.** €300 fixed penalty when anyone under 18 is on board.
- **Fines over €100 are due within 30 days.** After that they rise by 50%; after 45 days the case goes to court.

Fines and points · licence rules · what to carry · emergency numbers

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Fixed fines and penalty points (scheme of 1 October 2020)

OFFENCE	FIXED FINE	POINTS
Speeding, up to 30% over the limit	€2 per km/h over	1
Speeding, 31 to 50% over	€3 per km/h over	2
Speeding, 51 to 75% over	€5 per km/h over	3
Speeding, more than 75% over	Court	4 to 8
Alcohol 23 to 35 µg (general limit 22)	€125	1
Alcohol 36 to 55 µg	€250	3
Alcohol 56 to 70 µg	€500	4
Alcohol 71 µg and above, or refusing a test	Court	5 to 10
Handheld phone while driving	€150 (€300 repeat)	2
Holding another object while driving	€85	1
No seat belt or no child seat	€150 (€300 repeat)	3
No motorcycle helmet	€200 (€400 repeat)	3
Running a red light	€300	3
Overtaking at a pedestrian crossing	€200	0
Crossing a continuous white line	€65	2
No third-party insurance	€200 on the spot	3
No valid MOT	€150 (€300 bus or lorry)	0
Parking on a pavement or on a double yellow line	€100	0
Parking in a disabled bay	€300	0
Licence suspension threshold	16 points †	from 1 Feb 2025

Source: roadsafetycyprus.gov.cy penalty tables (Πίνакες Ποινών, last updated 16 September 2020) and the Motor Insurers' Fund notice of the same scheme. Where the table gives a points range the card prints the minimum. Court penalties are higher: speeding with alcohol carries up to 4 years or €15,000.

Can you drive on your own licence?

LICENCE	VISITING	ONCE RESIDENT
EU or EEA	Valid	Valid indefinitely; exchange is optional after 6 months
United Kingdom	Valid	Drive up to 6 months, then exchange without a test; an IDP does not extend this
Countries on the RTD recognition list	Valid	Exchange within 185 days of taking up residence
All other countries	National licence plus an International Driving Permit	Cypriot theory and practical test after the visitor period

Sources: Road Transport Department, foreign driving licence conversion (mcw.gov.cy); gov.uk, Living in Cyprus. Carry the licence whenever you drive; police can ask for it at any stop.

Who can help with the driving part of the move

- Full driving guide: newtoctyprus.com/driving-in-cyprus
- Renting a car, prices and excess explained: newtoctyprus.com/car-rental (Rentals in Cyprus is our sister company)

What to carry

- Documents:** driving licence, ID or passport, registration, insurance certificate and MOT certificate. Police may ask for all five at a roadside check.
- Warning triangle:** place it behind a stopped or broken-down car; failing to do so is reported as a €50 fixed penalty. Sources disagree on whether one or two triangles are required, so the card does not print a number (†).
- Hazard lights on the hard shoulder:** the emergency lane is for breakdowns and emergencies only, never for driving or overtaking.
- Child seats:** under 135 cm a proper child seat; 135 to 150 cm at least a booster; from 150 cm the adult belt. The height rule is quoted consistently but no primary text was reachable this pass (†).
- Fire extinguisher:** required for buses and public-service vehicles, not for private cars.

Emergency

112

EU emergency number, free from any phone, also without a SIM

199

Cyprus national emergency number: police, fire, ambulance

Police

Speed-camera and fixed-penalty enquiries: the Police traffic department in your district

* computed from a published rule · † two consistent sources, no primary text reachable

Sources

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- Motor Insurers' Fund of Cyprus, new penalties notice effective 1 October 2020 — <https://mif.org.cy/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/New-penalties.pdf> (verified 20 Sep 2026)
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- Cyprus Mail, Parliament raises licence suspension threshold to 16 points (31 October 2024) — <https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/10/31/parliament-raises-licence-suspension-threshold> (verified 20 Sep 2026)