

Road safety

Driving is a major responsibility. A driver is responsible for the health and safety of customers, other road users and of course, for him-/herself. When being behind the wheel of a car, safety should always be the top concern.

Essentials

1) Safety starts with the driver



Having a *valid driving license* for the respective vehicle is a pre-condition. Other documents, such as a liability insurance, are also needed.

No driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (for prescribed medication, a doctor needs to be consulted if it affects the driving ability). Drunk and buzzed driving make it hard to pay attention to the road, and negatively impact how well to make fast decisions.

No driving while feeling drowsy. Sleep deprivation or driving while exhausted can have similar effects on the body as drinking alcohol. It is essential to get enough sleep and rest before getting in the car. No driver shall be allowed to drive continuously for more than four hours without a break.

100% of the attention needs to be on driving at all times. No multi-tasking - phone or any other electronic devices are not allowed to be used. No smoking, eating or drinking while driving.

Respect speed limits and slow down. Speeding gives less time to react and increases the severity of an accident.

Be aware of what other drivers around are doing and expect the unexpected. Be aware of stray animals, especially when driving at night-time.

Keep a 2-second cushion between the car in front of you. Make that 4 seconds if the weather is bad.

2) Safety starts with car maintenance and pre-driving car checks: Instead of jumping in the car and drive off, it is important to get into the habit of making sure everything is in order first.



The vehicle needs to *comply with the national law* in terms of maintenance, seat belts, taxation, road worthiness and licensing.

Check tire air pressure & tread: Don't rely on a look-see. Use a good tire gauge to check the air pressure. Knowing that the rubber has some miles on it, don't ignore the tread. A depth of less than 1/8 of an inch is unsafe.

Check lights: flip on lights to check if they work. Also check turn signals and backup lights.

Check for leaks: puddles or stains under the vehicle can be a big safety concern if the leak is, for example, brake fluid, antifreeze or transmission fluid. If in doubt, get the car a service check-up.

Check wipers: turn them on. Do they work? Squirt washer fluid onto the glass to make sure they clear the glass.

Warning lights: If a warning light stays on, something is wrong with the system it is checking. If so, get a check-up.

Check your battery: A dead battery means the car won't start, possibly leaving the driver and customers stranded in an unsafe place or situation.

Secure cargo and comply with loading requirements: Cargo and luggage needs to be secured so it does not move around while the vehicle is in motion. Comply with national loading requirements related to maximum weight, security, signaling etc.

Check seatbelts: Are seatbelts provided and in good condition? Do all clients have a fixed seat and seat belt?

Ensure safety of child passengers: children need to have a fixed seat and seat belt. Depending on their age and country specific regulations, children need a specific, well fitted child's seat.

Check emergency equipment: There should be the following items in the car in case an emergency happens: first-aid kit, emergency exits and hammers for breaking glass, car owner's manual, motor oil, radiator fluid, roadside emergency kit with flares, jumper cables, and flashlight, reflective vest, breakdown triangle, fire extinguisher, blankets

3) Safety starts with being prepared for a specific trip/tour



Route: Check the anticipated route and be aware of possible alternatives. Assess if your vehicle is suitable for the expected terrain.

Weather: Check the weather forecast to pre-empt any risks (e.g. landslides, flooding).

Itinerary: Ensure that you are able to take a 45 minute break (or shorter breaks summing up to 45) for every 5 hours of driving. Only drive a maximum of 9 hours per day. Coordinate the itinerary with the tour guide.

Training videos

Watch this short 4-minute introductory video to learn

- ✓ Vehicle inspection and preparation before leaving
- ✓ Distracted driving

Safe Driving



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fvbjyOsens>