

News Release

Dodge the Dangers When Driving Abroad

Mondial UK offers tips for motorists heading to a foreign land

They drive on the wrong side, the road signs make no sense and the kids are making a racket in the back seat – all ingredients for high stress and a potential accident. But, according to leading travel assistance provider, Mondial UK, much of the stress can be eliminated with a little preparation.

British nationals make over 53 million overseas trips each year* and Fly Drive holidays are now commonplace. So if you are one of the many Brits planning to drive abroad this summer it may pay to follow Mondial's useful advice to have a safe, enjoyable and stress-free experience.

Steve Hook, Director of Corporate and Travel at Mondial UK comments, "As the old saying goes, when in Rome do as the Romans do. This is the best approach to take when it comes to driving abroad. Part of the joy of travel is the adventure. But even the most travel wise globetrotter can be filled with a sense of dread when contemplating driving in a foreign land. That's why we advise holidaymakers to make a little advance preparation so that they feel in control of the experience."

A CHECK LIST FOR TRAVELLERS DRIVING IN A FOREIGN LAND

- Don't forget official documentation, including full driving licence, registration document, motor insurance certificate, passport
- Check if a visa is needed
- Make sure you have adequate travel insurance and break down cover
- Don't forget to convert the vehicle's headlights for driving on the right
- Don't tempt thieves by leaving belongings in the car where they can be seen
- Check the rules of the road for the country you are visiting
- If you are taking your own car have it checked before you depart
- Make sure you display a GB sticker, especially outside the EU
- Remember to drive on the correct side of road for the country you are in!

In most countries a UK driving licence is acceptable for a stay of up to 12 months. In some other countries, such as Japan, travellers may need an International Driving Permit to support their UK driving licence. Drivers will also need the original vehicle registration document, their motor insurance certificate and passport.

As many as 1 in 7 fail to take out adequate travel insurance. And drivers should not assume that their British breakdown cover will apply once they leave our shores. They should shop around for the best deal and make sure they don't forget to take their policy and helpline numbers with them.

Hook concludes, "Before you go away ask yourself, does my insurance cover me? Have I told my car insurer? Do I have adequate break down cover?"

"It's easy to think it will never happen to you, but it only takes a little effort to prepare for the worst, knowing you can rely on your insurer when you need them most. Travellers should

make sure they are adequately covered before setting off so they can concentrate on enjoying their holiday. Always remember, if the worst does happen, providing you have your motor assistance policy as well as your motoring documents, help is just a telephone call away."

* Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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July 2006

Note to Editors

Mondial UK is a leading provider of customer support services to the motor and travel industries, insurance companies and other blue chip organisations. As a member of the global Mondial Assistance Group, Mondial UK provides services to customers 24 hours a day, wherever they are all over the world.

The Mondial Assistance Group, part of the world's largest insurance company Allianz of Germany, provides customer care contact to over 200 million individuals world-wide. Many of the world's leading organisations benefit from Mondial Group services each year, ranging from Motor Assistance, Customer Information and Care Contact, Marketing Programmes, Fulfilment, Breakdown and Accident Management, Warranty Services, Travel Insurance and Assistance, Property Assistance and Advice Lines.

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