



ROAD TRAVEL REPORT: UNITED KINGDOM & GIBRALTAR



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO...

- The UK, Norway and Sweden have the lowest road fatality rates of countries in the industrialized world. The road system is statistically among the safest in Europe.
- Extensive bus, rail, and air transportation is available.
- Roundabouts are widely used to slow traffic at intersections.
- Traffic moving in the opposite direction than in the US is a factor in pedestrian tourist casualties each year.
- Travel under the English Channel is available via Le Shuttle. (Phone: 0990/353535). Le Shuttle operates 24 hours/day, year round. It runs from Calais, France to Folkestone, England. The trip takes about 1 hour. Route M20 will then take you directly into London.



- Expect long delays when traveling overland between Gibraltar and Spain.
- There are 7.38 fatalities per billion vehicle kilometers traveled in the UK compared to 9.4 in the US.



ROAD REALITIES

DRIVER BEHAVIORS

- Drivers generally obey traffic regulations.
- About 25% of car drivers killed in road crashes are over the legal blood alcohol limit.
- Speeding is a factor in about one-third of traffic fatalities.
- About two thirds of road crashes involving a fatality or serious injury occur in urban areas where the speed limit is 40mph or less. Speeding is often a factor in these crashes.
- Give cyclists plenty of room. Cyclists riding close to the curb are most likely to swerve.




GENERAL ROAD CONDITIONS

- There is a good network of highways and trunk roads, connecting main cities and towns.
- British roads are the safest in Europe, but are often congested in urban areas. Some roads are narrow.
- Yellow lights appear before both green and red traffic lights. Do not proceed until the light actually turns green.

- Roads are clearly marked and numbered, as follows:
 - M = Motorway
 - A = Single or 2-lane
 - B = Minor (usually single-lane roads)
- Hazard ahead: A broken white line marks the center of the road. If the line segments lengthen and gaps shorten, a hazard lies ahead. Do not cross the broken line unless the road is clear.
- Areas of white diagonal stripes are sometimes painted on the road to separate traffic lanes or to protect traffic that is turning right. Enter such areas only in an emergency.
- Tunnels may have inadequate escape route markings and safety information. They may fail to keep vehicles safe distances apart, to check ventilation systems or hold regular emergency drills. Other than on tunnels and large bridges, there are few tolls.
- Roads in Hampshire County often follow river valleys, especially in rural areas. Such roads are prone to flooding.



■ A few typical road signs:

	Holiday Route
	Routes for Pedestrians
	Route that is part of network for bicyclists

- Roads divided by a central median are dual carriageways and often have four lanes or more. Medians generally contain a crash barrier. Roundabouts are common on these roads, especially in cities.

URBAN TRAVEL

- Urban roads are very well maintained, but are often narrow and congested.
- Parking may be difficult to find and may be expensive in some cities.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Traffic may be heavy during rush hour (7-10 am and 4-7pm).
- Traveling by bike on dedicated cycle/walking paths may provide a quick means of accessing congested urban areas.
- Many people commute by bicycle.

BIRMINGHAM:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Traffic is congested in city center.</p> <p>Parking is scarce and expensive. Vehicles illegally parked may be towed.</p> <p>Birmingham International Airport, 10.2 km southeast of the city in Solihull near the National Exhibition Centre (NEC). Airport website: http://www.bhx.co.uk/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local buses service routes to Birmingham and the metropolitan area. Express buses service inter-city routes to most major cities and airports. ○ Taxis are available at taxi ranks near passenger terminals. Taxis are metered; fares to local areas are set. Agree upon fare for other destinations. Major credit cards accepted. ○ Rental cars are available. Pre-booking is recommended. Airport is one mile from M42, Junction 6. M42 links with M6, M5, M40, M1 and the M6 Toll Road. ○ Free bicycle and motorcycle parking is available in the short stay parking lot. Nominal charge for longer stays in a secure parking area. Large groups, phone: 0121 767 7987 to check availability. A dedicated 2 mile cycle path to Solihull and Coventry. ○ All passenger facilities are handicap accessible. To arrange assistance, phone: 08707335511 anytime or 0121 767 7154 during business hours. Taxis are wheelchair accessible. <p>Traffic is congested in city center.</p> <p>Parking is scarce and expensive. Vehicles illegally parked may be towed.</p>	<p>There are bus lanes on some streets.</p> <p>Local bus services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Travel West Midlands” buses operate along major roads within the city. ○ “Birmingham Outer Circle” buses operate mainly along the city’s outer ring road, the A4040. “Centro” buses operate on Sundays and during evenings. Services are provided by independent operators or smaller bus companies. <p>Inter-city bus services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “National Express” operates out of Digbeth Station. ○ “Megabus” provides service to London. ○ “NXL Shuttle Service provides service to London and London airports and many larger cities. <p>There are bus lanes on some streets.</p> <p>Local bus services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Travel West Midlands” buses operate along major roads within the city. ○ “Birmingham Outer Circle” buses operate mainly along the city’s outer ring road, the A4040. “Centro” buses operate on Sundays and during evenings. Services are provided by independent operators or smaller bus companies. <p>Inter-city bus services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “National Express” operates out of Digbeth Station. ○ “Megabus” provides service to London. ○ “NXL Shuttle Service provides service to London and London airports and many larger cities.



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LEEDS:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Traffic is congested in the city and surrounding areas.</p> <p>City is a key hub in the northern motorway network; has access to the A58, A61, A62, A63, A64, A65, M1, M62, and A1(M).</p> <p>Leeds Bradford International Airport, located between Leeds and Bradford in West Yorkshire, England. Website: www.lbia.co.uk/. service to city center and nearby cities. Route 757 stops at Leeds City’s railway and bus stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Buses provide service to city center and nearby cities. Route 757 stops at Leeds City’s railway and bus stations. o ATA (Airport Taxi Association) provides taxi service. ATA taxis are licensed and are black and white. Taxis are metered; fares are set. Pick up at taxi rank outside airport terminal or book in advance. Phone for ATA member companies: Streamline—44 (0) 113-244-3322, Telecabs—44 (0) 113-279-2222, City Cabs—44 (0) 113-246-9999. o Rental cars are available. Facilities and services for disabled are well developed. 	<p>City center is completely pedestrianized.</p> <p>Leeds Superbus: Buses serving stops on Scott Hall Road are equipped to run on short sections of guideway placed on or near the road at points where congestion is high. The bus stops allow level boarding. Service is frequent.</p> <p>MetroConnect provides free bus service in city center. Service is frequent, Monday-Saturday from 6:30am to 7:30pm.</p>



LONDON:

CONDITIONS

USEFUL INFORMATION

Roads in the city are often congested. One-way roads are confusing.

London's expressways, especially the M1 and the M25, ring road are often congested or gridlocked.

Four ring roads (ringways) surround the city. Ringway 1 (known as the London Motorway Box) is the innermost ring road; it surrounds city center. Congestion charging is in effect inside Ringway, but not on the ring road itself. Charges must be paid Monday-Friday 7am – 6:30pm except on public holidays. Make payment by phone, voucher and online. Failure to pay carries an £80 fine. For information on congestion charging, see www.cclondon.com or www.bbc.co.uk/london/congestion/maps/maps.shtml.

M25 orbital motorway (ring road)

- Traffic may be gridlocked. Congestion is worst on Monday mornings and Friday afternoons. Avoid using if possible.

Be alert for cyclists jumping red lights, weaving in and out of traffic or riding on the pavement instead of in bicycle lanes.

Pedestrians should exercise special caution when crossing roads with special bus lanes, as buses sometimes travel against the standard flow of traffic. A relatively high pedestrian road crash rate exists.

Parking is difficult to find, and fines for illegal parking are high.

Parking restrictions apply on the city's red routes (high-traffic volume routes). Red routes are marked by road signs, which indicate a variety of restrictions. Some routes have red lines on the road in addition to signs. A double red line means parking is never allowed. Read restrictions posted on the signs at other locations.



Yellow lines mark areas where parking restrictions apply. Signs indicate times when parking restrictions are in force. Stopping on yellow lines to drop off or pick up passengers is allowed anytime.

Parking on a red or double yellow line is never allowed.

Failure to pay parking fees or parking in restricted zones may result in a fine or clamping and towing of vehicle.

London Councils' website (www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/) has more parking information.

Website with locations of secure parking areas for motorcyclists: www.motorcycleparking.com.

Served by 6 airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, City of London (a commuter airport six miles from city center),

City center is compact, so walking is a good option.

The public transportation system is excellent and the best way to tour the city. Journey Planner's website, www.journeyplanner.org, has information on transport options. Call the 24-hour information line (phone: +44-20-72221234).

Stations for most domestic long distance and international bus services (coach services) are on Buckingham Palace Road near London Victoria train station. Main coach services:

- National Express—routes throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Book in advance.
- Eurolines—routes to Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and continental Europe. Book in advance.
- MegaBus—low cost service between London and many large UK cities. Book in advance.

Local bus network is extensive. Buses are identified by numbers; may include letters. Fares are lower than Tube fares.

Routes, schedules and bus numbers all change at midnight when the Night Bus network takes over. Night buses operate out of Trafalgar Square and go to suburban areas. Service is reliable. Fares are the same as daytime fares.

Legal mini-cabs have a Transport for London (TFL) plate in the front window. Plate includes a blue London Underground "roundel".

- Taxis are called black cabs, but not all are black.
- Phone: 020-7222-1234 to learn the quickest route to your destination by licensed minicab, the Tube, or a night bus.
- Minicabs: Make sure the driver knows your name and destination prior to boarding. Sit in the back and carry a cell phone.
- Minicabs (private hire vehicles): includes limousine and chauffeur services. Book in advance.
- Avoid using unlicensed taxi drivers in unmarked cars.
- Illegal mini-cabs operate in some areas, especially at night.

Trams link South-West and South-East sections of outer London. Fares are the same as bus fares; travelcards are valid. Docklands Light Rail (DLR) serves east London. Travelcards are valid.

The Metro system (the Underground or the Tube) has 12 lines and covers many areas of the city. Crowded during rush hours. Check website (www.tfl.gov.uk/tfl/) for sections out of service on weekends. Tube Guru is a route planner for using metro. Website: www.visitlondon.com/tubeguru/



LONDON (CONTINUED):	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
<p>Southend Airport and Luton. Public transport services to the city and other metropolitan areas are plentiful.</p> <p>Website for a comprehensive London city guide: www.visitlondon.com/. For local travel information, call 0171-222-1234 anytime.</p>	<p>Cycling in London</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are some signposted cycle routes. Some streets have cycle lanes. <p>Motorists do not always watch out for cyclists, especially at intersections. Minor residential streets are more cyclist-friendly. There are traffic-free cycle paths along Grand Union and Regent’s Canals in North London. Many pedestrians use these paths in summer.</p>	
MANCHESTER:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
<p>Manchester Orbital Motorway provides access to nearby cities and several motorways.</p> <p>Traffic in city center is congested. Parking may be expensive, especially in parking garages. Cost is lower in parking lots outside city center. Parking is free at Ladywell Park & Ride, which is near Eccles (junction 2 of the M602). Buses provide transport to city center and Stretford tram station.</p> <p>Manchester International Airport, 10 miles south of city center. Website: www.manchesterairport.co.uk/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All forms of public transport are available in “The Station”—a dedicated transport center accessible from all terminals. Open 24-hours; transport options include trains and local and inter-city buses. Rental cars are available. City center is accessible from the airport by bicycle. Portions of the route are traffic free or shared cycle/pedestrian paths. Contact the airport cycle center: email: cyclecentre@manairport.co.uk; website: www.cyclegm.org/routes/page.asp?ID=15. <p>John Lennon Airport, in Liverpool. Inter-city buses provide transport from airport to Manchester. (Some airlines cover the fare.)</p>	<p>Metroshuttle is a free minibus service. There are 3 routes, which serve major areas in city center, all bus stations and many large car parks (parking lots).</p> <p>Local and inter-city bus service is well developed.</p> <p>Metrolink is a tram service operated by GMPTE (Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive) Phone: 0870-608-2-608. Fares are expensive. To reduce cost, get a Metromax ticket when making more than one trip a day. Trams may be crowded during rush hour.</p> <p>Taxi fares are lower than in London. Only “black cabs” may be hailed. Black cabs with the amber “TAXI” sign lit can take riders. Other taxis must be booked by phone.</p> <p>Licensed taxis have a yellow Manchester City Council sign on the hood and the company’s phone number in a yellow stripe on the sides.</p> <p>Parking for cycles is readily available in city center and public facilities. Cycle routes are well developed. National Cycle Route 6 goes into city center. The Manchester Cycleway links the city with Sportscity, Debdale Park and Chorlton. For information on cycling routes in the greater Manchester area, website: www.cyclegm.org/routes/index.asp.</p>	
OXFORD:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
<p>Heavy vehicle and pedestrian.</p> <p>Be alert for cyclists. Cyclists account for about 10% of traffic in non-peak hours and about 15% in peak hours.</p> <p>Parking is hard to find.</p> <p>Parking is expensive. There are 5 Park & Ride lots on near main roads coming into the city. Parking is free or inexpensive. Buses provide transport to the city. Fares are low. Do not leave cars in Park & Ride lots over night, as they are not guarded after hours.</p> <p>When driving to the city from London, take Rt. M40 west. Parking facilities (with bus service except on Sunday) are available just off Oxford’s ring road.</p>	<p>City is flat, making walking is a good option.</p> <p>Bus service is frequent. Local service is supplied by Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach South Midlands. There is express inter-city bus service to London, Cambridge and Northampton.</p> <p>CityLink bus company provides coach service to Oxford from Victoria Station in London. Phone: 0171/824-0056.</p> <p>Main bus stop is on Magdalen Street near Debenhams department store. Bus schedules are posted. Poles indicate where to stand for different routes. Service is frequent. Pay driver when boarding.</p>	



OXFORD:	CONDITIONS	USEFUL INFORMATION
	<p>Cycle parking facilities are well developed.</p>	<p>Taxis are readily available and clearly marked. Only use licensed taxis. Taxis can be order by phone or hailed.</p> <p>Individuals with limited mobility may use a wheelchair or battery powered scooter free of charge to tour city center. Book at least a day in advance. Phone: 01865 248737.</p>

RURAL TRAVEL

- Most rural roads are well maintained, but some are poorly maintained and badly designed.
- Be alert for people riding horses. Do not speed, drive too close, use horn or race engine.
- Be alert when driving along narrow country roads with stone walls on either side, especially in the Lake District. Passing is difficult and risky.
- About 57% of road fatalities occur in rural areas.
- Many roads have been upgraded. Traffic lights have been installed at many intersections.
- Speed limit drops from 60 mph to 30 mph where roads pass through some, but not all, rural villages.

NIGHT TRAVEL

- Fatal road crashes involving pedestrians and cyclists occur more frequently at night.

PEDESTRIAN TRAVEL

- Many American citizens are injured, some fatally, each year in pedestrian road crashes. Use extra care when crossing steets. Be aware that traffic is driving on the left rather than the right.
- Pedestrians account for 25 percent of all road crash fatalities.
- All types of pedestrian crossings have sensors which detect pedestrians in or near the crossing. The signal does not change while pedestrians are in the crossing.

TYPES OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

- Zebra crossings are marked by striped lines (zebra striping) on the road surface and an orange flashing beacon on each side of the road.
- Pelican crossings are signal-controlled crossings. Lightd are activated when a pedestrian pushes a button. Cross only when the “green man” is flashing. A beeper also sounds to help blind pedestrians cross.
- Puffin crossings are similar to Pelican crossings. Red and green signals above the push button indicate when it is safe to cross.

- Toucan crossings (Two-Can Cross) are light-controlled, push button operated crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. These crossings are placed where cycle routes cross roads. Cyclists are not required to dismount to cross. Drivers can proceed only when the light is green.
- Pedestrians can wait in refuges (traffic islands) available in the middle of some wider streets. Drivers have priority at traffic islands.
- Pedestrians have priority when the lights on the curb near the pedestrian Zebra crossings are flashing. Drivers must stop and yield the right of way when a pedestrian steps out into the Zebra zone.
- Pedestrians are not allowed to walk on motorways or slip roads, except in an emergency.
- Pedestrian barriers limit access to some roads. Cross only at the gaps provided.
- Tramways may run through pedestrian paths. Tramways are marked by white lines, yellow dots, shallow curbs or changes in the road surface.
 - Cross tramways at designated crossings. Do not cross when the amber lights are flashing, as a tram is approaching.
 - Look both ways along the track before crossing.
 - Do not walk on the tracks. Trams move quickly, make little noise and cannot steer to avoid hitting you.
- When getting off of a bus, watch for cyclists approaching in cycle paths. Wait for the bus to pull away before crossing.
- Use care when crossing bus or cycle lanes. Traffic in these lanes may be moving faster than in the other lanes or may be moving against the flow of traffic in other lanes.
- Shared cycle/pedestrian paths: A dividing line may segregate the two paths. Stay on the section for pedestrians. Be attentive for approaching cyclists on non-segregated paths.



SEASONAL TRAVEL

- Winter storms strike suddenly and can be severe. Winter sun can be blinding. Maintain a safe distance behind other vehicles, and do not attempt to pass sal trucks or snowplows.
- Reduce speed and use low beams when driving in hail, fog or heavy snow or rain.
- In winter, be alert for construction and maintenance work on motorways and major highways.
- Heavy snows may severely disrupt rail and metro system service and cause heavy congestion on nearby roads.
- In spring in some northern and eastern rural areas, migrating frogs and toads travel from winter hibernation areas to hatching ponds. Vehicles lose traction, skid, causing road crashes.
- During severe gales and heavy rains:
 - Heavy rain and spray may reduce visibility, speed limits may be lowered and service through tunnels, restricted.
 - Some major bridges, including the A282 Dartford Crossing, M6 Thelwall Viaduct and the M48 Severn Bridge, may closed.
 - Highsided vehicles, cars towing trailers or campers, cyclists and motorcyclists are advised to stay off the roads.
- Driving in fog:
 - Reduce speed and turn on low beams and fog lights, and increase distance between you and the vehicle ahead of you. Turn fog lights off when fog lights.
 - Be alert for vehicles stopped on or near the road or moving more slowly than normal. When fog clears, turn fog lights off.
 - Fog comes in rapidly. Maintain slower speed even when fog seems to be clearing as fog is often patchy.

- Flooding:
 - Do not attempt to cross sections of road where the water is too deep. Water is often deepest near the curb. Cross slowly if conditions permit. Once through the water, test your brakes before driving at normal speed.
 - Flooding may be a problem during heavy rains. Communities most likely to be affected are in the South East, Lincolnshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire.
- Met Office provides regional forecasts and weather warnings. Website: www.metoffice.gov.uk/ or : www.metoffice.com,
- The Highways Agency provides information on current weather and road conditions on local radio broadcasts, website: www.highways.gov.uk, Highways Agency Information Line (phone: 0845 7504030).

POLICE ENFORCEMENT

- Traffic Police may use un-marked cars while patrolling motorways.
- Fines and penalties for breaking traffic laws are high.
- When a traffic offense is punishable by imprisonment, the vehicle involved may be confiscated.
- The penalty for driving under the influence of illegal or legal drugs (including over-the-counter and prescription drugs that impair driving ability) is loss of license for a minimum of 12 months. There are longer suspensions for repeat offenders.
- Enforcement of parking restrictions in cycling lanes is not always adequate. Parked vehicles can force cyclists to swerve into the road.
- Radar, red light cameras and speed cameras are used.
- Installation of a speed camera reduces road fatalities and injuries about 47% near the camera sites.
- In London, there is a dedicated police unit for combating crime relating to bus services and minicab activities.



ROAD REGULATIONS

- Driving is on the left, except in Gibraltar.
- Drivers must have a valid national driving license or an International Driving Permit. A provisional (learner's) driving license issued abroad is not valid.
- An IDP is a legal identification document on which driving license information is translated into 11 languages, including English, and can only be used as a supplement to a valid driving license. Contact AAA at <http://www.aaa.com>.
- There is no general rule regarding intersection priority:
 - On minor roads, a “STOP” sign or a triangular “GIVE WAY” sign may be posted.
 - Often junctions are unsigned. Markings on the road indicate priority. A dashed or double-dashed line in your lane or a series of triangles pointing toward your vehicle, mean that you must yield at the intersection. When triangles point away from your vehicle, you have priority. Proceed with caution.



- The legal blood alcohol limit is .08 mg/ml. The minimum penalty for driving under the influence of alcohol is a 12-month loss of license, up to a £5,000 (\$9,762.00) fine and a possible 6-month imprisonment for a first offense. Penalties are higher for higher blood alcohol levels. A second drunk driving offense in a 10 year period means a 3 year license suspension.
- Blood alcohol level may still be over the limit the morning after drinking.
- Legal medications and illegal drugs may seriously impair reflex time and ability to drive and may remain in the system for 4 days or more.
- Speed limits for cars and motorcycles:
 - Built-up areas 30 mph (48 kph)
 - School zones, etc. 20 mph (32 kph)
 - 2-lane roads 60 mph (96 kph)
 - 4-lane divided roads 70 mph (112 kph)
 - Motorways 70 mph (112 kph)
- Speed limits for cars towing a trailer or camper drop to 60 mph (96 kph) on 4-lane dual highways and motorways.
- Variable speed limits are displayed inside a red circle on overhead signs on the M25 west of London and on the M42 near Birmingham. Variable speed limits are recommended but not mandatory.
- Maximum speed limit is 40 mph (65 kph) in Jersey and 35 mph (56 kph) in Guernsey.
- Do not pass on the inside lane (left lane). Do not block the middle lane when the left lane is clear.
- Seat belts, infant and child seats, and restraints regulations:
 - Driver and adult passengers must wear an adult seat belt if available.
 - Child younger than 3 years must be in an appropriate child restraint if riding in the front. An unrestrained child is **never** allowed to ride in the front.
 - Driver is liable if a child younger than 14 years is not wearing a seat belt.
- Children under 135cm (4'5") and under 12 years of age must be fitted with correct child restraint when traveling in a vehicle.
- Special use lanes:
 - Bus and tram lanes are indicated by road signs and markings.
 - Other vehicles may not drive or stop in these lanes when buses and trams are operating, unless a sign states otherwise.
 - Cycle lanes are indicated by road signs and markings as follows:
 - When marked by a solid white line, do not drive or park in it during times of operation.
 - When marked by a broken white line, do not drive or park in it unless unavoidable.
 - Traffic in bus and cycle lanes on one-way streets may move in the opposite direction of other traffic on the street.
- Roundabouts: When entering roundabouts, yield to traffic approaching from right, unless signs, road markings, or traffic lights indicate otherwise.
- Horn Use:
 - Do not use horn in urban areas from 11:30 pm to 7:00 am, except to warn of danger.
 - Do not use horn when vehicle is not in motion.
- Handicapped tags issued in the US are not recognized in the UK.
- Stopping on motorway breakdown lanes (the hard shoulder on the left) is illegal except in an emergency. When stopped, turn on 4-way flashers, disembark vehicle and wait for help on the embankment.
- Travelers are not permitted to walk on motorways or ramps (slip roads) except in an emergency.
- Drivers using a hand-held cell phone while driving may be fined. Drivers using a hands-free cell phone may be prosecuted if driving recklessly while using it.
- Using a handheld cell phone while driving is subject to a £30 (\$58.50) fine. If involved in a road crash while using a hands free cell phone, driver may face fines and penalties.
- Parking on approaches to a pedestrian crossing (indicated by zig-zag lines) is illegal.
- When involved in a road crash that causes damage or injures:
 - Exchange information with other drivers involved. Call police or report the road crash to them within 24 hours.
 - When another person is injured, give your insurance information to police at the scene or within seven days.



ROAD WATCH

SOME DANGEROUS ROADS

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
A3	Section from Hindhead and the Devil's Punch Bowl to Guilford is the A3's only 2-lane stretch. Road is heavily used. Gridlock is common during rush hour. Congestion is common near the A3/A287 junction, as the intersection is controlled by a traffic light. Construction of a 4-mile bypass to be completed in 2011. Project includes dual tunnels under the Devil's Punch Bowl.
A3	Section from near London to the Hook underpass is congested during rush hour. Road narrows from 6 lane to 4 lanes at the Hook underpass. Traffic exiting the A309 and entering the A3 just before the underpass further increases rush hour congestion.
A59 IN NORTH YORKSHIRE	Half of all casualties occur at junctions.
A44, SECTION LINKING LEOMINSTER AND WORCESTER	One of the UK's most dangerous sections of road. 25% of road crashes involve vehicles leaving the road and over 25% are head-on collisions.
A39, WEST OF MINEHEAD	Road has been upgraded, but includes a 3-lane hill. Pass with care when necessary. A39 is one of the longest A roads. Links Bath and Falmouth in southwestern Britain.
M6	Traffic is often congested, especially during rush hours. Truck traffic is often heavy. Building the M6 Toll Road has reduced traffic on the M6 by only 20%. Traffic may be congested near the beginning and end of the M6 Toll, due to poor junction design.
A39, PORLOCK HILL	After Porlock, the road climbs 400 meters in less than 2 miles, giving it a 1 in 4 gradient. Road has many hairpin turns. Reduce speed; drive with caution. Many buses have crashed at the bottom of the hill when their brakes failed. A toll road is available to bypass Porlock Hill. Road forks where it passes through Porlock. The left lane is one-way downhill; the right lane is one-way uphill. Both lanes are narrow.
A420	Traffic is heavy. Trucks are advised to use an alternate route, the A34. Many trucks still use the A420, adding to congestion. Road links Oxford and Bristol. Bypasses exist around Southmoor, Kingston Bagpuize, Faringdon, Shrivenham and Watchfield. Road goes through Oxford; sections of St. Aldate's, High Street, King Edward Street, Oriel Square and Merton Street have A420 route signs.
A889 NEAR DALWHINNIE IN PERTH AND KINROSS	Most dangerous road in the UK. High road crash rate. Lacks speed cameras.
A537	Section between Macclesfield in Cheshire and Buxton in Derbyshire Second most dangerous road in the UK. High road crash rate. No speed cameras.
A12 NEAR ROMFORD IN ESSEX	Third most dangerous road in the UK. High road crash rate. Has 5 speed cameras.
A4137 NEAR ROSS-ON-WYE IN HEREFORD AND WORCESTER.	Fourth most dangerous road in the UK. High High road crash rate. No speed cameras.



SOME DANGEROUS ROADS (CONTINUED)

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
LEEDS INNER RING ROAD	<p>Serves as a bypass for the city. Road lacks paved shoulders and has many exits. Concrete walls form a channel for most of the road. Traffic is often congested.</p> <p>Road consists of sections of the A58(M), A64(M) and A64 Road. The A61 completes the “circle”. With the exception of the A61 section, the speed limit is 40 mph. Final section from Hunslet to junction 4 with M621, under construction until Dec. 2008.</p>
Leeds Outer Ring Road, the A6120	<p>Road forms a semi-circle north of Leeds. Traffic is often congested. Horsforth, Lawnswood, Moortown and Cross Gates junctions may be gridlocked. Section between the A61 Harrogate Road and the A58 Wetherby Road has a high road crash rate. Road crash rate on the other sections is lower than the national average.</p> <p>Pedestrian and cycling facilities are lacking or inadequate. Pedestrians commonly walk along or across the road.</p> <p>The number of lanes and the posted speed limit varies along the route. Road needs to be upgraded to four-lane from Pudsey to Seacroft. Road is two-lane between Lawnswood Roundabout and Dawsons Corner.</p>
LONDON’S M4 MOTORWAY	Traffic is often congested or gridlocked during rush hours.
M40 JUNCTION 10	At this junction the A43 intersects with the M40 via three roundabouts. Junction is poorly designed. Long traffic jams are common. Trucks have difficulty negotiating the narrow and sharply curved entrance/exit ramps; jack knifed trucks often block traffic.
A12 FROM ROMFORD TO M25 JUNCTION 28	<p>One of the UK’s 10 most dangerous roads. Traffic is congested.</p> <p>Traffic at M25 junction 28 is generally congested during rush hours.</p>
A5-A43 JUNCTION NEAR TOWCESTER	The roads intersect via a roundabout that is inadequate for the traffic volume.
A43 THROUGH GEDDINGTON	Road passes through city center. Speed limit is enforced. Traffic is often congested.
A446	Truck traffic is often heavy. Road runs near part of the M6 Toll road.
A38	<p>Many sections have been upgraded. Bypasses take traffic around many cities along the route. Road has many names along its 292 mile route.</p> <p>Section in Nottinghamshire where the road bypasses Sutton in Ashfield is 2-lane and has many traffic light-controlled intersections.</p> <p>Expect backups at the junction of the A38 and M6 Toll, as traffic lights on the A38 roundabouts operate whether traffic is coming off the M6 Toll or not.</p>
A537 FROM MACCLESFIELD TO BUXTON	<p>One of the 10 most dangerous UK roads. Section from Buxton to Goyt’s Moss moorlands has many sharp curves. Section from the Cat and Fiddle Inn to Macclesfield is a series of sharp, sometimes blind curves. High road crash rate. Fatality rate is declining due to police efforts, upgraded road markings, signs and protective barriers.</p> <p>Often used by tourists to reach Peak District National Park. Road mix includes cars, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, heavy goods vehicles and livestock.</p> <p>Speeding is a problem, especially in summer. In severe winter weather travel can be hazardous due to the road’s high elevation. High winds are common.</p>



SOME DANGEROUS ROADS (CONTINUED)

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
SILVER JUBILEE BRIDGE	<p>Bridge links Widnes and Runcorn; crosses the River Mersey. Bridge is inadequate to handle current traffic levels; is often congested during peak travel times.</p> <p>Inadequate lane markings and road signs slow traffic flow near exits and cause confusion for drivers unfamiliar with the road. Factors in road crashes include speeding, weaving in and out of lanes and rear-ending slow-moving vehicles. Some road signs are in poor condition, poorly lit or obscured by vegetation.</p>
A48	Road is narrow.

SOME SAFER ROADS

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
COWLEY ROAD IN OXFORD	<p>Heavily used by cyclists and buses. Cyclists should use caution when making left turns, swerving around parked cars or passing bus at stops. Cyclists often ride on the sidewalk to avoid road risks.</p> <p>One of Oxford’s arterial roads; runs from Magdalen Bridge in city center, through East Oxford and into Cowley. Heavy vehicle and pedestrian traffic. High road crash rate.</p> <p>Many road improvements have been made, reducing road crash rate. Speed limit is 20mph in some sections. Speed limit signs flash when motorists are speeding. Widened sidewalks, additional zebra crossings, widened pelican crossings and raised crossings on most intersecting streets improve pedestrian and cyclists safety.</p>
A3	<p>Starts at the London Bridge. Links Portsmouth and London. Runs near Portsmouth Road (the old A3) and bypasses most towns/villages. Most of the road is a 4- or 6-lane divided highway. The 5-mile section bypassing Havant is the A3 (M) motorway. Local traffic uses the old A3, reducing congestion on most sections of the A3. (See “Some Dangerous Roads” for congested sections.)</p> <p>There are several shared cycle and pedestrian paths near the A3.</p>
M6 TOLL ROAD	<p>A 27 mile, six-lane motorway, built to reduce congestion in Birmingham and greater metropolitan area. Toll road connects M6 Junction 4 at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) to M6 Junction 11A at Wolverhampton. Toll road has few intersections and a service center at Norton Canes, between junctions T6 and T7.</p> <p>Traffic is moderate, except near beginning and end of the M6 Toll road due to poor junction design. Truck traffic is light due to high tolls.</p> <p>There is no toll on the section from the M6 to the M42. Sign posting for this section is confusing, causes non-local drivers to think a toll is required.</p> <p>Junctions have a “T” prefix. Entry and exit ramps (slip roads) at junction T3 with the A38 are one-lane and too short. The northbound exit ramp has a sharp curve.</p>
A38(M)	<p>Also called the Aston Expressway. Seven-lane road, linking Gravely Hill and Birmingham. Traffic pattern changes during rush hours: Morning—4 lanes inbound to Birmingham and 2 lanes outbound. Evening—4 lanes outbound and 2 lanes inbound. All other times, 3 lanes are open in each direction. Road has no median; one lane is always closed to separate traffic.</p>

**SOME SAFER ROADS (CONTINUED)**

ROAD	CONDITIONS & USEFUL INFORMATION
M60, MANCHESTER ORBITAL MOTORWAY	Heavy traffic. Has junctions with the M56, M61, M62, M602, M66 and M67 motorways. Links Manchester Airport, Stockport, Ashton-under-Lyne, Oldham and Trafford Park.
OXFORD RING ROAD	A four lane divided highway, except for a short section between Woodstock and Banbury Roads. Traffic may be heavy. Route number is variable. Western section is part of the A34; northeastern section, the A40; southeast, the A4142; short southern section, the A423 road.
A45	Formerly classified as the UK's eleventh most dangerous road. Speed cameras, improvements to junctions, the addition of cycle lanes and clearer road markings have reduced road crash rates 50%.

**ROAD RECOMMENDATIONS****TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS****BUSES**

- Public transportation safety is excellent.
- Long-distance touring buses are called coaches; those providing local transportation are called buses.
- There is coach service to all major towns and cities. Post buses provide service in some remote areas.
- Coaches are generally comfortable. Scheduling information is available at tourist information centers. National Express and Scottish Citylink are primary suppliers of coach service.
- Fares are discounted for children and students. National Express and Scottish Citylink offer 2 to 14 day passes for unlimited coach travel in specified areas.
- Rural bus service is generally better than the USA. Service is slower and less frequent than train travel.
- London's double-decker buses are safe and pleasant and operate from 6:00 am to 12:00 midnight.
- Bus travel in central London during rush hour is extremely slow due to congestion.
- Buses that are full will not stop for more passengers.
- Many night buses serve the theater, movie and entertainment areas.
- Buses may have an open platform instead of doors.

- Taxis in London and other larger cities are strictly regulated. Type of vehicles which may be used are designated.
- In London, licensed taxis must pass regular inspections by London's Public Carriage Office. In smaller cities, local councils oversee taxis. Vehicle-type is not strictly regulated. Generally, taxis must have a special rear plate next to the number plate, stating how many passengers may board and may have a special paint scheme.
- Unofficial taxis are a problem in some larger cities. They may not be insured or licensed and are more prevalent on Friday and Saturday nights.
- Minicabs are available nationwide. Vehicles are generally sedans or minivans. Minicabs must be pre-booked by phone or at a minicab office. Minicabs are metered; fare is based on time/distance. Off-meter fares may be agreed upon for a designated route.
- Hailing a minicab is illegal. If the driver stops, the fare will be high.
- In London, taxis can be hailed on the road or taken in designated taxi ranks located at prominent places throughout the city.
- Handicap-accessible taxis are available in London and other major cities.

TAXIS

- Taxis are easy to find in London but are less plentiful in regional centers.



TRAMS

- Always yield to trams. Tram drivers usually have their own traffic signals and may be permitted to move when others are not. Diamond-shaped signs give instructions to tram drivers only. Do not enter a road, lane or other route reserved for trams. Tram lanes often are marked with white lines, yellow dots or by a different type of road surface.
- Take extra care where tram tracks change. When a tram has stopped for passengers at a stop without platforms, do not drive between a tram and left-hand curb.
- Cyclists and motorcyclists should exercise caution when riding close to or crossing tram tracks, especially if the tracks are wet. It is safest to cross the tracks at right angles.

RENTAL VEHICLES

- Drivers must be aged 21-70 years to rent a car. In many instances, drivers must be aged at least 25 years to rent a motorcycle. Most agencies require one year's driving experience to rent a vehicle.
- Rental vehicles are less expensive when arranged through an international agency prior to arrival. For a car with automatic transmission, make arrangements well in advance.
- Before renting a car on the continent, check out license and insurance requirements.
- Be fully insured or great expenses can be incurred if involved in a road crash, regardless of who is at fault. Be sure policy covers the type of vehicle being rented.
- Book ahead, especially if you want an automatic or need a child seat, luggage rack, etc.
- Most agencies offer one-way rentals.
- Rental cars, as well as privately owned vehicles, are subject to congestion charges. Most agencies pay the first day's charges and add it to your bill. You are responsible for paying for any additional days. Fines for failing to pay charges are high.

BICYCLES

- Cycle lanes are marked by a solid or broken white line along the side of the road. Cyclists must remain in this lane when possible.
- Be alert for doors being opened in front of you when cycle lanes pass near parked cars,
- Toucan crossings are signaled crossings where cycle paths cross roads. Cyclists may ride across when the green cycle symbol is lit.

- Do not ride across puffin and zebra crossings. Dismount and push cycle across.
- Cycle tracks generally are located away from roads but may be placed along sidewalks or footpaths.
- Regulations for Cyclists:
 - Cyclists are not required to wear a helmet, but a helmet is strongly recommended.
 - Cyclists must obey all traffic signs and traffic lights and can be ticketed for reckless cycling or cycling while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
 - Front and rear lights must be on at night. Rear reflector are required. (White front reflectors and spoke reflectors recommended.)
 - Cycling is restricted to cycle lanes or tracks. Cycling on sidewalks is illegal.
 - Cyclists are not permitted to carry a passenger unless the cycle was built or adapted to do so.
 - Use cycle parking facilities when provided.
 - Intersections may have an advanced stop line allowing cyclists to wait ahead of other traffic. If not, stay behind the stop line while waiting for the green light.
 - When sharing a path with pedestrians, riders must yield to pedestrians.
 - Cyclists can use bus lanes only when the bus lane sign includes a cycle.
- Before making right turns on streets with parking, glance back over your shoulder for on-coming traffic.
- For a small surcharge any airlines take bicycles when declared as "sports equipment".
- The National Cycle Network is co-ordinated by Sustrans. Network includes 10,000 miles of traffic-free walking and cycling paths. Sustrans' website (<http://www.sustrans.org.uk>) links to a map of the National Cycle Network and a Route Finder for planning cycling trips.
- Shared pedestrian and cycle paths near the A3 link:
 - Liss and Petersfield near the Petersfield bypass.
 - Greatham and West Liss.
 - Greatham and Liphook.
 - Clanfield and Queen Elizabeth Country Park.
- Website with more information on cycling the UK: Cycling in Wolverhampton: www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/trenv/cycling/index.htm
- UK cycle signs: www.cyclemaps.org.uk/sites/lbbd/signs/



MOTORCYCLING

- Motorcycle drivers and passengers must wear a protective helmet that complies with regulations. Helmets must be fastened securely. Only one passenger is permitted. It is recommended that drivers keep headlights on during the day to improve visibility. Motorcyclists also can increase their visibility by wearing fluorescent clothing or strips.
- Motorcyclists are 30 times more likely to die or be seriously injured in a road crash than car drivers.
- Motorcyclists and scooter or moped riders account for 14% road fatalities but make up only 1% of road traffic.
- Reducing motorcyclists' road crash injury risk:
 - Wear a white helmet instead black—24% lower risk
 - Wear a light colored helmet instead black—19% lower risk
 - Wear light or reflective clothing—37% lower risk
 - Use daytime running lights—27% lower risk

CRIME & SECURITY

- While crime rates are generally low throughout the United Kingdom and Gibraltar, crime, including violent crime, has increased, especially in London. Avoid walking in isolated areas, including public parks, especially after dark.

- In London, only use licensed taxis or car services recommended by hotel or tour operator personnel.
- Avoid unlicensed taxis or private cars operating as taxis. Fares may be lower, but vehicles are often uninsured and drivers may be unlicensed. In some cases, passengers have been assaulted and/or robbed. Services for obtaining safe cab services:
 - On a cell phone, text "HOME" to #60835 to get numbers for licensed minicabs or taxis in your area.
 - Call 0871-871-8710 to find a licensed "black taxi". Dispatcher will send the nearest available "black taxis" to your location.
- Many buses in London have video cameras and all have two-way radios to help insure passenger safety.
- ATM fraud is a problem. Avoid using ATMs in isolated places. If the ATM fails to return your card, report it to the issuing bank immediately.
- Maintain security awareness. Check with the UK Department for Transport (www.dft.gov.uk) and the British Airport Authority (www.baa.co.uk) for updated security information. Report anything suspicious to authorities.
- Occasional, isolated violence due to the political situation is possible in Northern Ireland, especially in the summer marching season (April to August). Tensions are likely to be highest on July 12th, a public holiday; travelers may experience delays.



EMERGENCY INFORMATION

TOURIST ASSISTANCE

- Roadside assistance availability is excellent. Providers include:
 - Automobile Association (AA)—Phone: 0800/887-766. From a cell phone: 08457 887766.
 - Royal Automobile Club (RCA)—Phone: 0800/828282. Service is expensive for non-members; can join on the spot.
 - National Breakdown Service—Phone: 0800/400-600.
- Emergency numbers:
 - Police, fire or ambulance, phone: 999.or from a cell phone: 112.
 - Emergency number on Gibraltar, phone: 112.
 - No payment is required from a pay phone.
- Emergency call phones, that connect to police, are placed along superhighways (motorways).
 - When vehicle breaks down, pull off of the road if possible and place a warning triangle or other warning device on the road shoulder at least 147 feet behind the vehicle. Turn 4-way flashers on. Use nearest roadside emergency phone. The phone gives repair/EMS workers your location. When calling from a cell phone, supply the numbers from the nearest roadside marker post.
 - Petrol (gasoline) is heavily taxed. Gas stations are scarce in some remote areas; many are closed on Sunday.
 - AA's Route Planner provides information on UK roads. Website: www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp. UK Department of Transport's website has maps of trunk roads in England: www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/strategic/programme/tpi/england?page=3#1019.



- The British Tourist Authority, 551 Fifth Ave., Seventh Floor #701, New York, NY 10176-0799. Phone: 800-462-2748 or 212-986-2200; website: www.visitbritain.com.
- The London Tourist Board will send London information packets. Phone: 0171-932-2000; website: <http://na.visitlondon.com/>; address: Glenn House, Stag Place, London SN1E 5LT.
- Samaritans maintains a 24-hour crisis hotline. Phone: 0171/734-2800.

EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK

- Main roads in the park include the A27, A34 and M65.
- The park is easily accessible by road. Traffic may be congested During the peak season. Visitors are encouraged to use public or private transport options to reach the park. **Countryside Code's website** provides information on transport options to the park and cycle and walking paths within the park. Website: www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/countryside_code.
- Bus transport is available from Banstaple, Taunton and Tiverton to larger villages in the park. Private companies offer bus tours and safaris on less traveled park roads.
- AT (Accessible Transport) West Somerset and North Devon CTA (Community Transport Association) offer handicap accessible transport services. To contact AT West Somerset, phone: 01643 707 484 or write: 7, Quirke St., Minehead, Somerset, TA24 5TZ To contact North Devon CTA, phone: 01271 328 866.
- Motorized vehicles may only use public roads. Bicycles may use public roads, cycle paths, bridleways, but not private roads or footpaths. (Private roads are identified on maps or by signs.) Only pedestrians and wheelchair users may use footpaths without the landowner's permission.
- Cyclists must yield to walkers and horses and not speed. Keeping control of a bicycle may be difficult on rough paths, especially in hilly areas.
- Fire risk is high in summer.
- Website with detailed maps of Exmoor NP: www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/index/visiting/planning_your_visit/visiting_maps.htm.

MEDICAL CARE

- Good medical care is widely available, but free care under the National Health System is available only to U.K. residents.
- For non-life threatening emergency, there are walk-in clinics in hospitals.

- For information on local hospitals, call "Health Information First" toll free: Phone is 0800-665-544.
- Doctors and hospitals often expect cash payment.
- U.S. Embassy or your hotel can make recommend a doctor.
- Outside of London, dial 100 and ask local police for name and number of a local doctor or call "Doctor's Call 07000/372255. U.S. citizens are eligible for free emergency care.
- In an emergency, go to a hospital with a Casualty or A&E (Accident & Emergency) center. For minor medical problems, waits at A&E centers may be long.
- Drugstores are called chemist shops. All police stations have a list of emergency chemists.
- Ask a pharmacist for advice regarding minor medical problems.
- U.S. medical insurance is not always valid in other countries. Medicare and Medicaid do not cover medical expenses rendered outside the U.S. Medigap policies (plans C through J) cover 80 percent of what Medicare would cover in the U.S. for the first 60 days of each trip; a \$250 deductible applies. Maximum lifetime limit of \$50,000. Medicare Advantage may offer coverage for care abroad. Phone: 800-633-4227; website: www.medicare.gov/publications/pubs/pdf/11037.pdf.



EMBASSY INFORMATION

- British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Phone is 202-588-7800; website is www.britainusa.com.
- U.S. Embassy, 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE; Phone in country: 020-7499-9000, from the U.S.: 011-44-20-7499-9000 (24 hours). The Consular Section fax in country: 020-7495-5012; from the U.S.: 011-44-207-495-5012. Website: <http://london.usembassy.org.uk>.
- US Consulate Generals
 - Edinburgh, Scotland, 3 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh EH7 5BW. Phone in country: 0131-556-8315: from the U.S.: 011-44-131-556-8315. After hours phone in country: 01224-857097; from the U.S.: 011-44-1224-857097; fax in country: 0131-557-6023; from the U.S.: 011-44-131-557-6023 Website is <http://london.usembassy.gov/scotland>.



- Belfast, Northern Ireland, Danesfort House, 228 Stranmillis Road, Belfast BT9 5GR. Phone in country: 028-9038-6100; from the U.S.: 011-44-28-9038-6100. Fax in country: 028-9068-1301; from the U.S.: 011-44-28-9068-1301. Website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/nireland>.
- Gibraltar has no Consulate. Direct passport questions to the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, Serrano 75, Madrid, Spain. Phone: 34-91-587-2200, fax: 34-91-587-2303; website: <http://madrid.uembusa.gov>. Direct all other questions to the US Embassy in London.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact:
Association for Safe International Road Travel
(ASIRT)
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Fax: (301) 983-3663
Website: <http://www.asirt.org>
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ASIRT is a non-profit humanitarian organization established in memory of Aron Sobel, age 25, who was killed along with 22 other passengers in a Pamukkale Bus Company crash on the roads of Turkey. © ASIRT 2007

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