

# TRAVELLING IN EUROPE

2016-17



European Union



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**Europe:** a continent with thousands of years of history, a rich cultural heritage and some of the world's most breathtaking scenery. So much for the traveller to discover and explore and all made much easier thanks to the European Union (EU).

You can cross many borders within the EU without being checked and the euro makes it easier to shop around for bargains. You have easy access to healthcare should you need it and your dog or cat can travel with you. If you drive, your driving licence and motor insurance policy issued in one EU country are valid in all the others. And using your mobile phone abroad is getting much cheaper.

For more information, helpful tips and a map of Europe, see inside.

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Publications Office



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**The European Union of 28 countries** stretches over the continent of Europe from Lapland in the north to the Mediterranean Sea, and from the west coast of Ireland to the shores of Cyprus: a rich tapestry of landscapes from rocky coastlines to sandy beaches, from fertile pastureland to arid plains, from lakes and forests to arctic tundra.

The peoples of Europe, with their diverse traditions, cultures and languages, make up around 7 % of the world's population. Their historic heritage is charted in prehistoric cave paintings, Greek and Roman antiquities, Moorish architecture, medieval fortresses, Renaissance palaces and baroque churches. Modern Europe too attracts the traveller, with its vibrant cities, colourful cultural festivities, winter and summer sports and varied cuisine.

Europeans love to travel. The removal of most passport and baggage formalities and the use of the same currency — the euro — in 19 EU countries have made travelling much easier. The creation of a single market of more than 500 million people has brought wider choice and lower prices. In fact most Europeans find it as easy to travel around the EU as it is to travel in their home country.



## Documents you will need

### For EU citizens

#### **Passport or identity card**

There are no longer any controls at the borders between 22 EU countries. This is thanks to the Schengen rules, which are part of EU law. All EU countries, except for Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom, are full Schengen members. Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are also Schengen members but are not in the EU. The Schengen rules remove all internal border controls but put in place effective controls at the external borders of the EU and introduce a common visa policy. Internal border controls may exceptionally be reintroduced for a limited period if there is a serious threat to public order or internal security in a given Member State.

You will therefore need to present a valid passport or ID card when travelling to or returning from the six non-Schengen countries and when entering or leaving the EU at the external borders. Carry them when travelling in the EU because they may be required for identification or security purposes. Before travelling outside the EU, check what documents are required by the non-EU country you plan to visit. Be aware that the only valid ID is the one obtained from national authorities.

Children must have their own passport or ID card.

#### **Visa**

You will not need a visa for travelling within the EU.

### For non-EU citizens

#### **Passport**

You will need a valid passport.

#### **Visa**

There are more than 50 countries whose nationals do not need a visa to visit the EU for up to 90 days. In general, most EU citizens do not need a visa to visit these non-EU countries either. They include Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand and the United States.

The list of countries whose nationals require visas to travel to Ireland or the United Kingdom differs slightly from other EU countries. Apply for a visa at the consulate or embassy of the country you plan to visit.

If you hold a Schengen visa you can travel to all the Schengen countries. Moreover, if you have a valid residence permit issued by one of those Schengen countries, you can stay for up to 90 days in other Schengen countries. You may need a national visa to visit the non-Schengen EU countries.



# Money



## The euro

The euro is currently used by around two thirds of EU citizens, or more than 337 million people in 19 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain (see insert map overleaf).

The symbol for the euro is €. Euro notes are identical in all countries but each country issues its own coins, with one common side and one side displaying a distinctive national design. All the notes and coins can be used in all EU countries that have adopted the euro, including many of their overseas territories.

Andorra, Monaco, San Marino and Vatican City use the euro as their national currency, in agreement with the EU. A number of countries and territories, such as Kosovo and Montenegro, use the euro as their de facto currency.

In European countries outside the euro area, many hotels, shops and restaurants, particularly in tourist areas, accept payment in euros as well as the national currency, although they are not legally obliged to do so.

## Cash and cards

EU rules now ensure that banks charge the same fees for international payments in euros within the EU as for a national transaction of the same value in euros. So withdrawing euros from a cash machine anywhere in the EU costs you the same as it does in your own country from a cash machine that does not belong to your bank. The same fees must apply to all payments by debit or credit cards in euros, to euro credit transfers or direct debit payments, no matter whether the transaction takes place in your own country or within the EU. Charges for any transactions may of course differ significantly between banks.

International payments in other currencies are not subject to these provisions.

Block any lost or stolen bank cards immediately by calling the issuer. Make a note of the number to ring before you travel.

If you enter or leave the EU with €10 000 or more in cash (or its equivalent in other currencies) you must declare it to the customs authorities.



# Shopping

## Within the EU

There are no limits on what you can buy and take with you when you travel between EU countries, as long as it is for personal use and not for resale. Taxes (VAT and excise duties) are included in the price you pay and no further payment of tax can be due in any other EU country.

## Tobacco and alcohol

To determine whether tobacco and alcohol are for personal use, each country can set guide levels. If you carry a larger quantity of these goods, you may be questioned to check that you have no commercial intent. However, countries may not set their guide levels lower than:

- 800 cigarettes,
- 400 cigarillos,
- 200 cigars,
- 1 kg of tobacco,
- 10 litres of spirits,
- 20 litres of fortified wine (such as port or sherry),
- 90 litres of wine (of which, a maximum of 60 litres of sparkling wine),
- 110 litres of beer.

## Food

There are no general restrictions on carrying meat or dairy products when travelling within the EU.

## Coming into the EU

If you enter the EU from a non-EU country, you can bring with you goods free of VAT and excise duties for personal use within the limits set out below. The same applies if you come from the Canary Islands, the Channel Islands, Gibraltar or other territories where EU rules on VAT and excise duties do not apply.

## Alcoholic drinks

- 1 litre of spirits over 22 % vol. or 2 litres of fortified or sparkling wine
- 4 litres of still wine
- 16 litres of beer





## Tobacco products

Each EU country chooses whether to apply the higher or the lower limits to travellers coming from outside the EU. If it applies the lower limits it may apply them only to land and sea travellers (Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Sweden) or to all travellers (Estonia and Romania).

HIGHER LIMIT	LOWER LIMIT
200 cigarettes	or 40 cigarettes or
100 cigarillos	or 20 cigarillos or
50 cigars	or 10 cigars or
250 g tobacco	or 50 g tobacco

Travellers under the age of 17 cannot make use of these alcohol and tobacco allowances.

## Other goods, including perfume

Up to a value of €430 for air and sea travellers

Up to a value of €300 for other travellers

Some EU countries apply a lower limit for travellers under 15 but it may not be lower than €150.

## Food

It is illegal to bring back any meat or dairy products, even in small quantities, when coming back into the EU from most countries outside the EU. The only exceptions are Andorra, Faeroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, San Marino and Switzerland. This is to protect EU livestock from animal diseases.



## Help for consumers

As a consumer you are guaranteed fair treatment, products which meet acceptable standards and a right of redress if something goes wrong, wherever you are in the EU.

### Know what you are eating

You can be assured of the highest food safety standards because of strict laws on the production, processing and selling of food. Improved food labelling rules mean clearer, more comprehensive and accurate information on food content.



Look out for the EU organic logo on all pre-packaged organic labelled foodstuffs.

### Know what you are buying

You are protected from a wide range of unfair commercial practices both online and in shops. Pre-ticked boxes on websites are now banned, so that you do not unintentionally pay for travel insurance, say, when buying a plane ticket online. Unjustified surcharges for paying by credit card online have also been banned.



Cosmetic products have to indicate how long they can be used after opening. Check the open jar symbol.



Sunscreen products have clear labelling, including a standardised indication of UVA protection.



Marking on certain products such as toys, electrical products and mobile phones indicates that the manufacturer has certified that they meet all relevant EU safety, health and environmental protection requirements.



The EU Ecolabel is awarded to products that meet high environmental standards. It can also help you to identify environmentally friendly hotels, youth hostels or campsites.

### Compare prices

The full price, including VAT, of all goods for sale must be clearly displayed, as well as the unit price — the price per kilo or per litre. When booking a flight online, the total price of the ticket, including charges and taxes, must be visible from the start of the booking process.

### Resolve any problems

European Consumer Centres give practical information on EU consumer rights as well as free advice and assistance with cross-border complaints or disputes. There are centres in all 28 Member States and in Iceland and Norway. There is also a useful **ECC-Net Travel** app with lots of practical help and information.



## Getting there

### By road

#### Driving licence

A valid driving licence issued in an EU country is recognised throughout the EU. Every new licence now being issued is in the form of a plastic card with a standard European format. In most countries, in addition to carrying a valid driving licence, you will need to have your vehicle's registration certificate with you.

#### Motor insurance

Wherever you are travelling in the EU your car insurance policy will automatically provide the minimum cover required by law (third-party liability). This also applies to Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. If you have comprehensive insurance at home, it often extends to travelling in other countries, but you should check before setting out.

A European accident statement form, obtained from your insurer or online, is a standard document available in several languages that makes it easier to make a declaration on the spot if you have an accident in another country.

A green card is not obligatory when travelling in the EU but it serves as internationally recognised proof of minimum third party liability insurance. If you do not take a green card with you, you should carry your certificate of insurance.

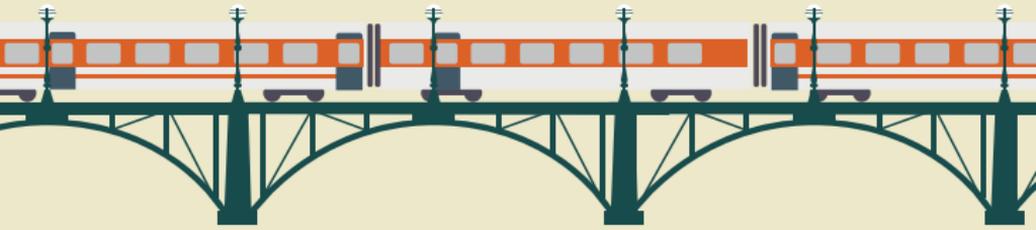
#### Driving safely

In all EU countries, seat belts must be worn in all vehicles fitted with them. Children must have appropriate child restraints.

Using a mobile phone while driving greatly increases the risk of an accident and is forbidden in almost all EU countries, unless using a hands-free set.

The maximum permitted blood alcohol level varies between 0 mg/ml and 0.8 mg/ml. Other important road safety information in each EU country — including speed limits, safety equipment for motorists and cyclists and mandatory use of daytime running lights and of winter tyres — can be found in the **Going Abroad** app. Drivers who commit road safety-related traffic offences abroad, such as speeding or drink-driving, can be tracked down with improved cross-border exchange of information.

Remember to drive on the left side of the road in Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom and that in some countries, such as Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Portugal, you normally have to give way to traffic coming from your right.



### By air

Creating a single European market in air transport has meant lower fares and a far wider choice of carriers, routes and services for passengers. The EU has made it possible for any airline and its fleet that meets EU-wide safety standards to fly to and from anywhere in the EU, even taking on domestic routes in another country.

#### Security

Common EU rules on security controls for passengers, hand luggage and checked luggage apply for all flights departing from EU airports. EU rules lay down a list of items that are not allowed into the cabin of an aircraft and items that are not allowed in checked baggage for carriage in the hold. For the time being, there are also restrictions on the amount of liquids that can be carried in hand luggage. A first step towards removing those restrictions has been taken, allowing passengers travelling through airports in the EU to carry duty-free liquids as hand luggage, provided the item and its receipt remain sealed inside the security bag provided.

#### Safety

Europe has one of the best aviation safety records in the world thanks to the effective implementation of high standards. To improve safety with regard to airlines originating from outside the EU, their aircraft are inspected in Europe, they are banned from operating inside European airspace if they are found to be unsafe or are not sufficiently overseen by their authorities and, from November 2016, all non-EU airlines flying to the EU will have to hold an authorisation certifying their compliance with international safety standards.

### By rail

The EU has over 215 000 km of railways. There are over 7300 km of high-speed lines in several countries connecting important axes like London–Paris, Paris–Brussels–Amsterdam–Cologne, Milan–Rome and Barcelona–Madrid with trains reaching speeds of up to 350 km/h. Much more is under construction or planned.

### By water

There are many key sea routes between EU countries offering regular, high-quality services as an alternative to, or in combination with, road, air or rail. There are also over 41 500 km of navigable rivers, canals and lakes. The EU has been at the forefront of improving maritime safety and promoting high-quality standards, with rules to protect passengers and crew sailing on ferries or seagoing vessels to and from European ports as well as on passenger ships sailing within the EU.

### By bicycle

Enjoy getting around Europe's towns and cities by using one of the hundreds of self-service bike rental schemes, some of which have been co-financed by the EU.

## Passenger rights

The EU is the only area in the world where passengers benefit from a comprehensive set of rights for all modes of transport: road, air, rail and water. Passengers in the EU, including disabled passengers and those with reduced mobility, have the right to accurate, timely and accessible information, assistance and, in certain circumstances, compensation, in case of cancellation or long delays. Travellers also have certain rights in relation to package holidays.

### Bus and coach passengers

All bus and coach passengers have the right to receive adequate information about the service and about their passenger rights before and during their journey. Passengers on international services travelling 250 km or more have additional rights, such as assistance, reimbursement or rerouting in case of delay and cancellation.

### Air passengers

As an air passenger, you have the right to information, reimbursement, rerouting, compensation (under certain circumstances) and assistance if your flight is delayed or cancelled or if you are denied boarding. These rights apply to passengers on all flights departing from an EU airport and on flights arriving in the EU operated by EU air carriers. Air carriers are liable in the event of accidents or for lost, damaged or mishandled luggage.

### Rail passengers

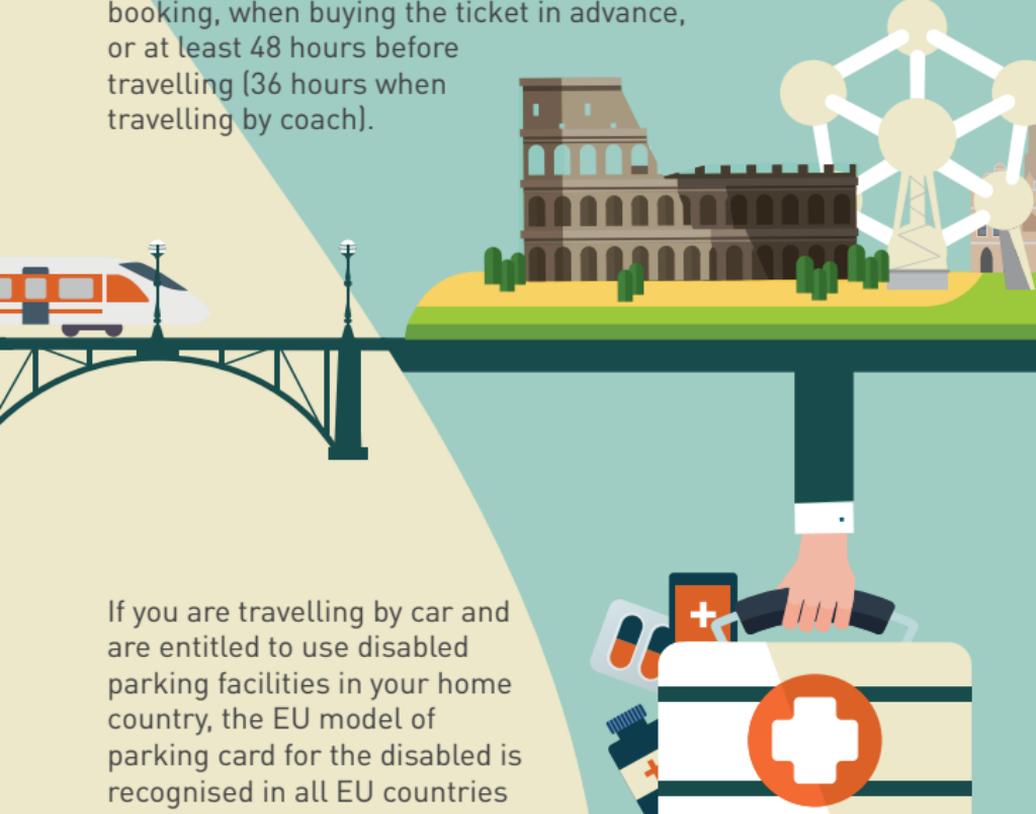
Rail passengers have the right to timely information, refunds, rerouting, assistance and compensation in the event of long delays and cancellations on all international rail services within the EU. Passenger rights on domestic services may differ from country to country.

### Sea and inland waterway passengers

Passengers travelling by sea or inland waterway enjoy rights including reimbursement, rerouting, compensation and assistance if faced with cancellations or delays, as well as the right to adequate and easily accessible information. These rights apply, with some exceptions, to those travelling on passenger services either departing from or arriving in a port within the EU and on cruises where the port of embarkation is in the EU.

### Disabled passengers and those with reduced mobility

Passengers who are disabled or reduced in their mobility are entitled to free assistance in airports, train stations and ports and in designated coach terminals, as well as on board aircraft, trains, ships and coaches. It is advisable to notify the carrier or terminal operator of specific needs at the time of booking, when buying the ticket in advance, or at least 48 hours before travelling (36 hours when travelling by coach).



If you are travelling by car and are entitled to use disabled parking facilities in your home country, the EU model of parking card for the disabled is recognised in all EU countries and allows you to use the parking facilities available to the disabled in other EU countries.

### Seeking redress

If you feel that your rights have not been respected while travelling and you want to seek redress, first contact the carrier or terminal operator. If they fail to fulfil their obligations then you can contact the national enforcement body for your specific mode of transport. Call the Europe Direct freephone number 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 for more information and details of the relevant enforcement body. There is also a useful app — **Your Passenger Rights** — for checking on the spot what your rights are and how to claim them.

## Staying healthy

### Access to health care

As an EU national, if you are suddenly taken ill or have an accident during a temporary visit to another EU country, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland, you are entitled to use the public healthcare services on the same terms and at the same cost as the people insured in that country. Each country has its own rules for public medical provision. In some, treatment is free or you only have to pay part of the cost; in others you have to pay the full cost and then claim a refund. So keep all your bills, prescriptions and receipts so that you can apply for reimbursement in the country you are visiting or, failing that, when you get home.



The European Health Insurance Card proves that you are insured in an EU country and is available free from your national health insurer. It simplifies the procedures and helps to speed up the reimbursement of costs. Some countries incorporate the card on the reverse side of a national card while others issue separate cards. The European **Health Insurance Card** app gives you information on emergency phone numbers, treatments covered, costs and how to claim reimbursement.

### Travel insurance



The European Health Insurance Card is not a substitute for travel insurance as it does not cover private healthcare or costs such as repatriation or mountain rescue in ski resorts. So you may want to take out travel insurance to cover those risks.



## Medicines

A prescription from your doctor is valid in all EU countries but check that the prescribed medicine is authorised for sale and is available in the country you are visiting. Ask for a cross-border prescription. It is designed to help pharmacists fulfil the prescription by giving them clear information on the prescriber, the patient and the prescribed product, including its common name, brand name and the quantity and dose required.

## Immunisation

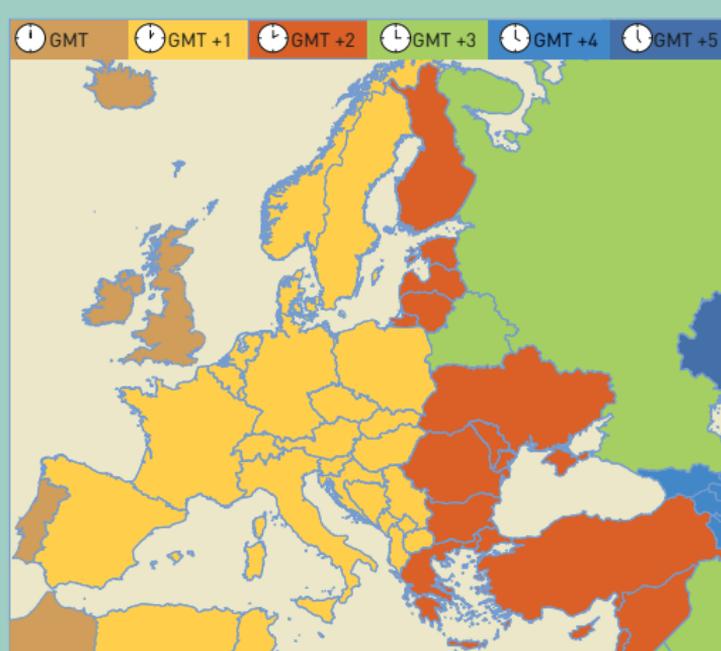
There are, in general, no immunisation requirements when travelling in the EU. However, there are requirements or recommendations for certain of the EU's overseas territories. Check with your doctor before you go.

## Bathing water

Strict standards are set for EU bathing water to protect bathers' health and the environment. The overall water quality at the EU's 21 000 bathing sites remains high: more than 95 % meet the minimum water quality standards and 83 % meet the more stringent 'excellent' standard. Official symbols at the bathing sites give information on the quality of water.



## Time zones



## Summer time

Daylight saving time begins across the EU on 27 March 2016, when clocks are moved forward an hour, and it ends on 30 October 2016, when clocks are put back an hour. The dates for 2017 are 26 March and 29 October.



## Communicating

### Languages

Europe is rich in languages. Most of them belong to the Germanic, Romance, Slavic, Baltic and Celtic language families. The EU has 24 official languages but there are many other regional and minority ones.

More than half of Europeans say that they are able to hold a conversation in at least one language other than their mother tongue and a quarter say that they are able to speak at least two additional languages. Enjoy using your language skills on your travels in Europe. Even a few phrases of the local language when talking to local people will be appreciated. Here's how to say 'thank you'.

Bulgarian	<i>Blagodarya</i>	Irish	<i>Go raibh maith agat</i>
Croatian	<i>Hvala</i>	Italian	<i>Grazie</i>
Czech	<i>Děkuji</i>	Latvian	<i>Paldies</i>
Danish	<i>Tak</i>	Lithuanian	<i>Ačiū</i>
Dutch	<i>Bedankt</i>	Maltese	<i>Grazzi</i>
English	<i>Thank you</i>	Polish	<i>Dziękuję</i>
Estonian	<i>Aitäh</i>	Portuguese	<i>Obrigado</i>
Finnish	<i>Kiitos</i>	Romanian	<i>Mulțumesc</i>
French	<i>Merci</i>	Slovak	<i>Ďakujem</i>
German	<i>Danke</i>	Slovenian	<i>Hvala</i>
Greek	<i>Efkaristo</i>	Spanish	<i>Gracias</i>
Hungarian	<i>Köszönöm</i>	Swedish	<i>Tack</i>



### Telephone

There is just one prefix for making international telephone calls anywhere in the EU. It is 00.

The country codes (listed according to the abbreviations for countries used on nationality plates on cars) are:

(A) Austria	43	(HR) Croatia	385
(B) Belgium	32	(I) Italy	39
(BG) Bulgaria	359	(IRL) Ireland	353
(CY) Cyprus	357	(L) Luxembourg	352
(CZ) Czech Republic	420	(LT) Lithuania	370
(D) Germany	49	(LV) Latvia	371
(DK) Denmark	45	(M) Malta	356
(E) Spain	34	(NL) Netherlands	31
(EST) Estonia	372	(P) Portugal	351
(F) France	33	(PL) Poland	48
(FIN) Finland	358	(RO) Romania	40
(GB) United Kingdom	44	(S) Sweden	46
(GR) Greece	30	(SK) Slovakia	421
(H) Hungary	36	(SLO) Slovenia	386

## Mobile phones

EU rules have significantly reduced the cost of using mobile phones and smart devices abroad by capping prices. Prices for roaming calls, texts and data have fallen by 80 % since 2007, with data roaming now up to 91 % cheaper than in 2007. When you cross a border in the EU you will get a text from your mobile operator telling you the price of making and receiving calls, texting and going online in the country you have just entered. To protect you against excessive data roaming bills, the volume of downloaded data on your mobile device is capped, worldwide, at the price of €50, or your own pre-agreed limit. You will receive a warning when you reach 80 % of this limit.

Roaming will become even cheaper from April 2016 because operators will only be able to charge a small amount in addition to domestic prices: up to €0.05 per minute on calls, €0.02 per text sent and €0.05 per MB of data (excluding VAT).

And from 15 June 2017 there will be no roaming charges when travelling in the EU. You will pay the same price for calls, texts and mobile data when travelling in the EU as you do at home.

## Postage

Postage stamps can only be used in the country in which you buy them, even when priced in euros.

## Electricity

All of Europe has 220-240 volt alternating electric current. Cyprus, Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom have square three-pin plugs but, in general, all other EU countries have two-pin plugs. These may vary but you should be able to use your two-pin appliances anywhere. Adaptors can usually be bought in airports and tourist resorts.

## Things to do

There is a dazzling choice of things to do and see in Europe. For ideas and information on all countries, have a look at the European tourist destinations website ([visiteurope.com](http://visiteurope.com)) or go to the websites of the official national tourist organisations of each EU country.

The abbreviations for countries are those used on nationality plates on cars.

<b>A</b> Austria <a href="http://austria.info">austria.info</a>	<b>HR</b> Croatia <a href="http://croatia.hr">croatia.hr</a>
<b>B</b> Belgium <a href="http://visitflanders.com">visitflanders.com</a> <a href="http://belgique-tourisme.be">belgique-tourisme.be</a>	<b>I</b> Italy <a href="http://enit.it/en">enit.it/en</a>
<b>BG</b> Bulgaria <a href="http://bulgariatravel.org">bulgariatravel.org</a>	<b>IRL</b> Ireland <a href="http://discoverireland.ie">discoverireland.ie</a>
<b>CY</b> Cyprus <a href="http://visitcyprus.com">visitcyprus.com</a>	<b>L</b> Luxembourg <a href="http://visitluxembourg.com">visitluxembourg.com</a>
<b>CZ</b> Czech Republic <a href="http://czechtourism.com">czechtourism.com</a>	<b>LT</b> Lithuania <a href="http://visitlithuania.net">visitlithuania.net</a>
<b>D</b> Germany <a href="http://germany.travel">germany.travel</a>	<b>LV</b> Latvia <a href="http://latvia.travel">latvia.travel</a>
<b>DK</b> Denmark <a href="http://visitdenmark.com">visitdenmark.com</a>	<b>M</b> Malta <a href="http://visitmalta.com">visitmalta.com</a>
<b>E</b> Spain <a href="http://spain.info">spain.info</a>	<b>NL</b> Netherlands <a href="http://holland.com">holland.com</a>
<b>EST</b> Estonia <a href="http://visitestonia.com">visitestonia.com</a>	<b>P</b> Portugal <a href="http://visitportugal.com">visitportugal.com</a>
<b>F</b> France <a href="http://int.rendezvousenfrance.com">int.rendezvousenfrance.com</a>	<b>PL</b> Poland <a href="http://poland.travel">poland.travel</a>
<b>FIN</b> Finland <a href="http://visitfinland.com">visitfinland.com</a>	<b>RO</b> Romania <a href="http://romaniatourism.com">romaniatourism.com</a>
<b>GB</b> United Kingdom <a href="http://visitbritain.com">visitbritain.com</a>	<b>S</b> Sweden <a href="http://visitsweden.com">visitsweden.com</a>
<b>GR</b> Greece <a href="http://visitgreece.gr">visitgreece.gr</a>	<b>SK</b> Slovakia <a href="http://slovakia.travel">slovakia.travel</a>
<b>H</b> Hungary <a href="http://gotohungary.com">gotohungary.com</a>	<b>SLO</b> Slovenia <a href="http://slovenia.info">slovenia.info</a>

The EU supports and contributes to many cultural projects and events across Europe every year, including the designation of a cultural capital of Europe. The EU helps to fund exhibitions and events highlighting the cultural heritage of the chosen cities, bringing together a vast array of artists and performers from across Europe.

The Basque city of **Donostia-San Sebastián** on the Bay of Biscay in northern Spain and the multicultural city of **Wrocław** in the Silesian lowlands in Poland are the European Capitals of Culture in 2016. **Aarhus**, Denmark's dynamic university city in Jutland, and **Pafos**, with its archaeological treasures on the south west coast of Cyprus, share the title in 2017.

## Pets

Travelling with a dog, cat or ferret is easy with an EU pet passport, available from any vet. All dogs, cats and ferrets must have a passport and, for identification purposes, be fitted with an electronic microchip or have a clearly readable tattoo applied before July 2011. They must be vaccinated against rabies and the details entered in their pet passport. The vaccination must be carried out after the microchipping or tattooing.

Dogs must be given specific tapeworm treatment by a vet before travelling to Finland, Ireland, Malta and the United Kingdom. Details of the treatment must appear in the pet passport and the dog can then travel between 1 and 5 days after treatment.

The EU pet passport is only for dogs, cats and ferrets. If you want to travel with other pets such as rabbits, birds or rodents, check with your vet.



## If things go wrong



### Single European emergency number: 112

To contact the emergency services in any EU country from any phone, fixed or mobile, dial 112, free of charge.

### Loss or theft

Report any theft to the local police. You will need to enclose the police report when making your insurance or compensation claim. Cancel any lost or stolen debit or credit cards immediately. If your passport has been stolen, report it to your country's consulate or embassy as well as to the police. Remember that if you are outside the EU you can get help from the consulate or embassy of any other EU country if yours is not represented.

## Getting in touch with the EU

### Online

Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Europa website: [europa.eu](http://europa.eu)

### In person

All over Europe there are hundreds of local EU information centres. You can find the address of the centre nearest to you at: [europedirect.europa.eu](http://europedirect.europa.eu)

### On the phone or by email

**Europe Direct** is a service which answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service by freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11** (certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00800 numbers or may charge for these calls), by payphone from outside the EU: **+32 22999696**, or by email via [europa.eu/contact](mailto:europa.eu/contact)

### Read about Europe

Publications about the EU are only a click away on the EU Bookshop website: [bookshop.europa.eu](http://bookshop.europa.eu)

You can also obtain information and booklets in English about the European Union from:

### European Commission Representations

**European Commission Representation in Ireland**  
12-14 Lower Mount Street  
Dublin 2  
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Tel. +353 16341111  
Internet: [ec.europa.eu/ireland](http://ec.europa.eu/ireland)  
Email: [eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu)

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Internet: [ec.europa.eu/malta/home\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/malta/home_en)  
Email: [comm-rep-mt@ec.europa.eu](mailto:comm-rep-mt@ec.europa.eu)

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# THE EUROPEAN UNION

## BASIC STATISTICS ON EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

### European Union Member States

	Area (1 000 km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (million)	Per capita gross domestic product (PPS <sup>(*)</sup> )
Belgie/Belgium	31	11.2	32 500
Estre/Belgium	111	7.2	12 300
Česká republika/Czech Republic	79	10.5	23 000
Danmark/Denmark	43	5.6	33 900
Deutschland/Germany	357	81.1	33 900
Eesti/Estonia	43	1.3	19 900
Éire/Ireland	70	4.6	36 200
Ελλάδα/Greece	132	10.8	19 700
España/Spain	505	46.4	25 500
France/France	544	66.3	29 400
Irlandia/Croatia	56	4.2	16 100
Italia/Italy	301	61.8	26 500
Kompos Kibris/Cyprus	9	0.8	23 300
Latvija/Latvia	65	1.9	17 600
Lietuva/Lithuania	65	2.9	20 200
Luxemborg/Luxembourg	3	0.5	72 000
Magyarország/Hungary	93	9.9	18 500
Malta/Malta	0.3	0.4	23 300
Nederland/Netherlands	34	16.9	35 600
Österreich/Austria	84	8.6	34 900
Polska/Poland	313	38.0	18 600
Portugal/Portugal	92	10.4	21 400
România/Romania	230	19.8	14 700
Slovenija/Slovenia	20	2.1	22 600
Slovensko/Slovakia	49	5.4	20 900
Suomi/Finland	305	5.4	30 100
Sverige/Sweden	411	9.7	34 100
United Kingdom	244	61.7	29 700

### Candidate countries and potential candidates

	Area (1 000 km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (million)	Per capita gross domestic product (PPS <sup>(*)</sup> )
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51	3.8	7 800
Montenegro	13	0.6	10 600
Kosovo (*)	11	1.8	—
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	25	2.1	10 000
Albania	27	2.9	7 800
Serbia	77	7.1	9 600
Turkey	775	72.1	14 400

### Europe and the world

	Area (1 000 km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (million)	Per capita gross domestic product (PPS <sup>(*)</sup> )
The 28 European Union countries together	4 234	508.2	27 400
China	9 327	1 367.5	9 800
India	3 287	1 251.1	4 300
Japan	365	126.9	27 300
Russia	16 889	142.4	18 200
United States	9 159	321.4	40 700

Figures are for 2015. Source: Eurostat (ec.europa.eu/eurostat)

(\*) Gross domestic product is the total value of all goods and services produced within a country in a year. It is often used to express wealth. PPS, purchasing power standard, is a unit representing an identical volume of goods and services in each country, irrespective of price levels. The value of 1 PPS unit corresponds roughly to 1 euro. (GDP figures are for 2014). (\*\*) This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with United Nations Security Council 1244 and the International Court of Justice opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

**United in diversity:** The European Union is made up of 28 European countries that share the same democratic values and are committed to working together for the common good. They have transferred specific powers to shared European institutions so that democratic decisions on questions of Europe-wide importance can be made at European level. At the same time, the EU is committed to safeguarding the diversity of European cultures and ways of life. Some other countries are candidates for EU membership. Learn more about the European Union at [europa.eu](http://europa.eu)



## KEY

- EU Member State
- Candidate country or potential candidate
- Headquarters of EU institutions
- National frontier
- National capital
- Seat of government
- Regional boundary
- Regional capital
- Major waterway

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## NON-CONTINENTAL AND OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OF MEMBER STATES

