

In accordance with Decreto Legislativo Regional 7/2025/M, this document summarises the main traffic rules applicable in the Autonomous Region of Madeira. Full compliance with the Portuguese Highway Code is the sole responsibility of the driver.

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SPEED LIMITS

- Within urban areas: **50 km/h**
- VR1 (Madeira's expressway): **90 km/h** by default, with stretches at **100 km/h** in good conditions
- Regional roads (ER) and mountain roads: often **50–70 km/h** depending on the stretch
- Outside urban areas (other roads): **up to 90 km/h**
- In adverse conditions (heavy rain, fog, wet road): **reduce speed** to a safe limit

Local signage always prevails over these general limits.

BLOOD ALCOHOL

- General limit: **0.5 g/L**
- Drivers with less than 3 years of licence: **0.2 g/L**
- Above these values: serious infraction; above 1.2 g/L: public crime
- **Recommendation:** do not drive after consuming alcohol

MANDATORY EQUIPMENT

All mandatory equipment is supplied on board at the time of delivery — the lessor hands over the vehicle with everything in order and in compliance with the law.

- **Reflective vest**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Spare tyre**
- **Vehicle documents** — must remain in the vehicle at all times

RIGHT OF WAY

- **Roundabout:** priority to those already inside. The **outer lane is the exit lane** — use it only when leaving at the next exit. In all other cases, drive in the **inner lane** and move to the outer lane **only just before your exit** (with signal). Driving around the entire roundabout in the outer lane is incorrect and **one of the most frequent causes of accidents in Madeira involving local and foreign drivers** — in many countries roundabouts are rare, in Madeira they are very common.
- **Unsigned junction:** priority to the right
- **Emergency vehicles** (ambulances, fire brigade, police, INEM): yield immediately
- Signage and road markings take precedence over general rules

DRIVING IN MADEIRA

- **Mountain roads** with sharp curves and steep descents
- Use **engine braking** (lower gears) on long descents — prevents brake overheating
- If you smell burning or see smoke from the brakes, stop in a safe place and **let them cool naturally** — DO NOT pour water on the brakes or discs
- On narrow roads with oncoming vehicles, **slow down and yield if necessary**
- **DO NOT** drive through waterfalls, levadas or water crossings
- **DO NOT** drive on unpaved tracks — prohibited by the rental terms

PARKING

- **Solid yellow lines** parallel to the pavement or road: **no parking**
- **Spaces with blue lines**: paid parking — always check the **parking meter next to the parking area** for prices, free periods (if any), and which mobile app is available for that area (common example: **iParque**, but not all areas accept the same app)
- **Spaces marked with the letter «M»**: for **residents** of the area only
- **Spaces marked «TAXI»** (on the ground or on a sign): taxis only
- **Spaces with a «Reservado» (Reserved) sign**: reserved for specific entities (e.g. government, police, other public or private bodies) — prohibited for other drivers
- **Spaces with a yellow X** on the ground: loading and unloading zone (only)
- Reduced mobility spaces: **only with a valid card**
- In Funchal and urban centres: respect signage and limited-time parking zones
- Do not block access to residences, garages or shops
- Fines: can be contested within 30 days with the issuing authority

IN CASE OF ACCIDENT

- In case of injuries or imminent danger: **call 112**
- Put on the **reflective vest** and place the **warning triangle**
- **Do not admit or assume fault** to third parties
- **Contact Autorentacar immediately** — we coordinate communication with the authorities and the insurer
- Photograph the scene and damage before moving the vehicle, if safe to do so

USEFUL CONTACTS

- **112** — Emergency services (PSP, GNR, INEM, Fire brigade)
- **Autorentacar** — lessee assistance, see footer