

Driving abroad?

Key things you need to know before
and during your trip

Tomorrow. Together

If you are planning on taking your car abroad, you'll need to comply with the rules and regulations applicable to the country you are travelling to or through; some of which can only be arranged before you travel.

1 **Passport requirements**

As a general rule, your passport will need to have been issued less than ten years before the date you wish to travel and must expire at least three months after the date you wish to leave. Depending on when you last renewed, extra months may have been added to its expiry, so remember to check both dates.

2 **COVID-19**

The European Council of the European Union recommends that member states should not impose any travel restrictions on health grounds. However, it is still advisable to check the latest information at [gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) before booking your travel.

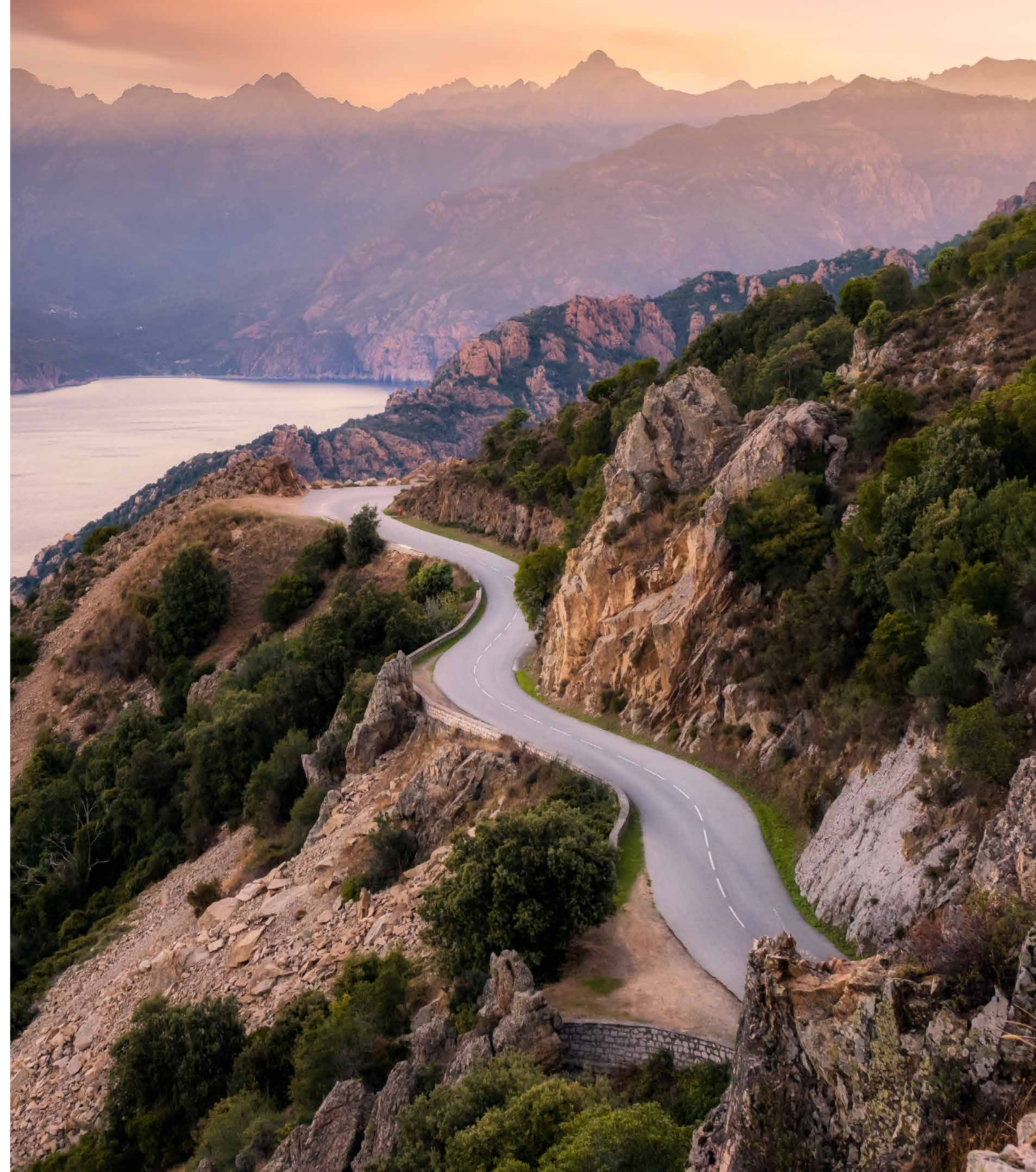
3 **Documentation**

You will need to have a VE103 vehicle on hire certificate to show that you are permitted to use a lease vehicle outside the UK (if it's your own vehicle then it will be your V5C logbook). To make sure the documentation comes through in time, please request this at least 10 working days in advance by calling:

Business drivers: 0343 351 9084

Personal drivers: 0343 351 9073

If you are travelling to Liechtenstein, you will also need to carry an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles (ICMV) with you. This can be arranged by calling the number above.





Driving abroad with Novuna

4 Driving licence

You need to carry a valid GB or Northern Ireland driving licence with you at all times. If you have a paper driving licence, or if your licence was issued in Gibraltar, Guernsey, Jersey, or the Isle of Man then some European countries, including Norway, also require you to carry an International Driving Permit (IDP). You may also need an IDP if you are travelling outside Europe. An IDP can be purchased at the Post Office.

5 Insurance

There's no need to carry an insurance green card in order to drive in most European countries, but you will need a valid insurance certificate or other proof of insurance. That said, you may need a green card to drive in Albania, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

6 UK stickers and number plates

If your number plate has numbers and letters only (with no flag or identifier), a GB identifier with the Union Jack, a European Union flag, or a national flag of England, Scotland, or Wales then a UK sticker is required. If your number plate already has the UK identifier with the Union Jack then no sticker is required.

7 Trailers

If your car has a trailer, you may need to register it before using it abroad. To find out more visit: [gov.uk/guidance/trailer-registration](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/trailer-registration)

8 Additional items

Rules regarding alcohol, mobiles, headphones, clean air stickers, high visibility jackets, breathalyser kits, and warning triangles vary. For up to date regulations visit: [gov.uk/drive-abroad](https://www.gov.uk/drive-abroad) and for more tips and advice on driving at home or abroad this summer, go to: novunavehiclesolutions.co.uk/news-and-insights/driving-tips/summer-driving-tips

Tomorrow. Together

Charging your EV in Europe

If you are planning on taking your electric car to Europe this summer, it's best to plan ahead and check out the chargepoint providers with the best coverage in the areas you plan to visit.

The good news is that in order to comply with the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive, recharging points should be equipped for the standard Type 2 connectors used in the UK, as well as CCS/Combo 2 for high-power DC charging. However, it's important to take some cables with you as not all chargepoints will have tethered cables for you to use.

To help with planning your journey, [ABetterRoutePlanner.com](https://www.abetterrouteplanner.com) and its associated app is handy tool that helps you work out convenient place to charge along the route.

The most common way to pay is to use some form of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) card from providers such as Chargemap, Shell Recharge, or Plugsurfing; who have more than 500,000 chargepoints across Europe. Taking a bit of time to check out country specific operators, apps, and charge cards may increase your options or enable you to charge at a better rate.

For those wanting charge speeds of up to 350kW then IONITY has just under 2,500 chargers across Europe and of course, for those with a Tesla, their European Tesla Supercharging network has over 10,000 individual connectors in 30 countries.

Tomorrow. Together





Driving abroad with Novuna

France

Drivers are required to display a windscreen sticker which denotes their vehicle's level of emissions. Entry to controlled areas depends on meeting the specified standard and displaying the right sticker.

There are six categories of sticker, known as Crit'Air vignettes, which also offer preferential parking for the least polluting vehicles.

- **Green** Crit'Air E (100% electric and hydrogen vehicles)
- **Purple** Crit'Air 1 (All gas and plug-in hybrids, Euro 5, 6 petrol vehicles)
- **Yellow** Crit'Air 2 (Euro 4 petrol vehicles, Euro 5, 6 diesel vehicles)
- **Orange** Crit'Air 3 (Euro 2, 3 petrol vehicles, Euro 4 diesel vehicles)
- **Burgundy** Crit'Air 4 (Euro 3 diesel vehicles)
- **Dark Grey** Crit'Air 5 (Euro 2 diesel vehicles)

The cost of a Crit'Air vignette is €3.11 plus postage and they can be purchased from the French government's website at certificat-air.gouv.fr

The penalty for failing to display the appropriate sticker varies between the regions but is likely to result in a fine of between €68 and €135, which may increase if payment is not made within the specified timeframe.

Taking your EV to France?

A Fulli card, which is available for just under €10 plus €0.70 per recharge, will enable you to access 70,000 public charging stations across France.

In a similar vein, the €4.99 Freshmile Pass, or a IZIVIA Pass at €15, will enable you to access a large network across France and up to 250,00 chargepoints Europe-wide.



83,000+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together

Germany

Many of Germany's major cities require drivers to display an emissions sticker (Umweltplakette) in their vehicle when entering a controlled zone, with road signs at the main entry points showing which vehicles are allowed.

There are three stickers available, each indicating a different level of pollution control. Diesels meeting at least Euro 4 and Euro 1 or higher petrol cars are given a green sticker. Yellow stickers are for Euro 3 diesel vehicles and red for Euro 2 diesels. Diesels with a particulate filter can generally qualify for a sticker if they are one Euro standard below the requirement. For example, a green sticker that is normally applicable to Euro 4 diesels, also applies to Euro 3 diesels with a particulate filter.

Euro 1 or non-Euro standard diesels, non-Euro standard petrol cars, and those without a catalytic converter do not qualify for a sticker and are therefore banned from most areas with environmental controls.

You can buy stickers from a number of places but the most reliable, and generally cheapest, is to use the official website for the region you are travelling to (such as [berlin.de](https://www.berlin.de)). Stickers can take a few weeks to arrive and so it is best to order one well in advance of your intended travel date. Failing to display a sticker in a controlled zone can result in a fine of €80 and you may be restricted from continuing your journey.

Taking your EV to Germany?

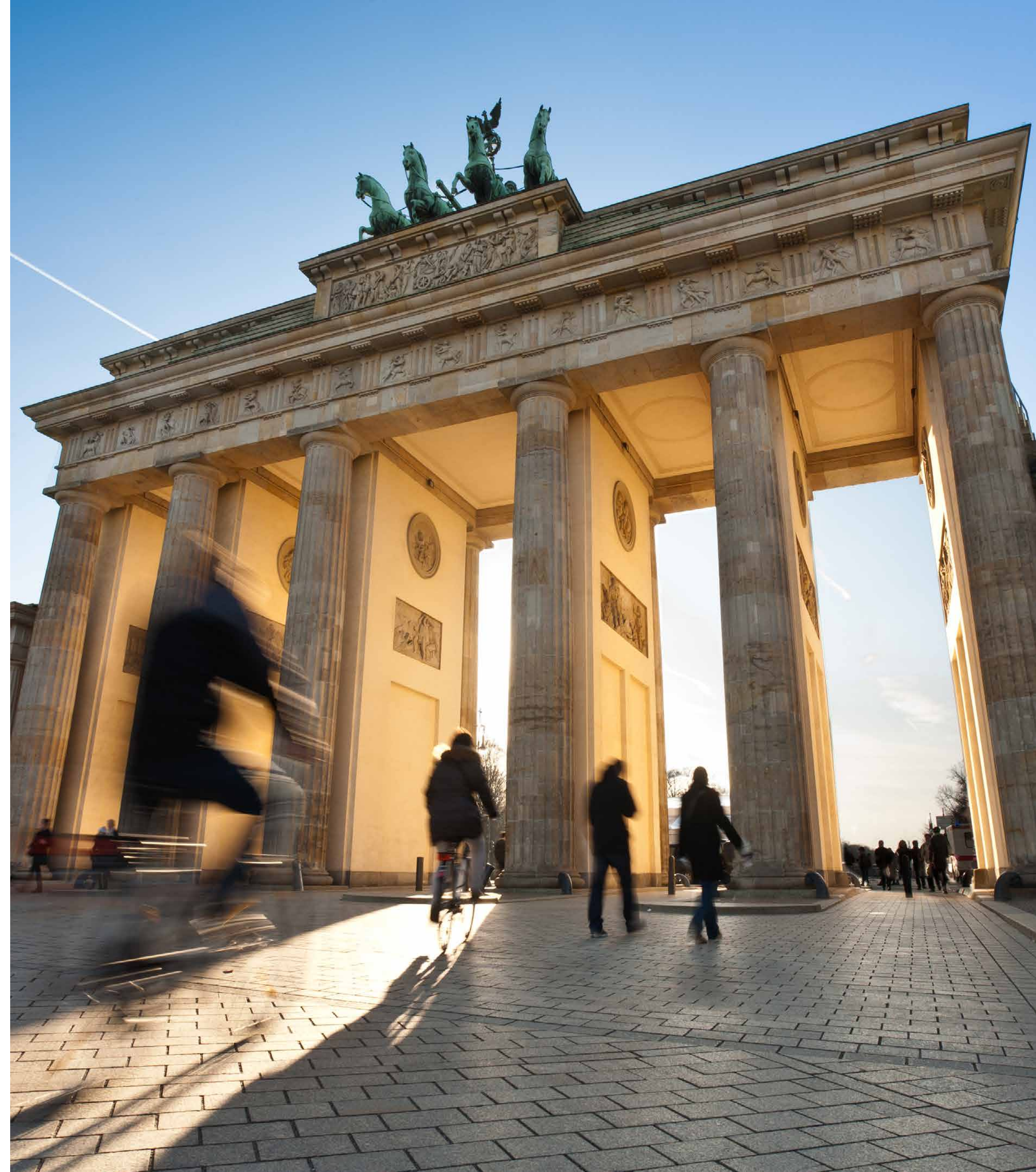
Germany's has a strong public charging infrastructure, with one the biggest providers, MAINGAU, offering easy access to over 80,000 charge points with no contract term, no monthly fee, and kWh-based billing.

You'll also find chargepoints in all the usual places, including supermarket giants Lidl and Aldi.



85,000+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together





Driving abroad with Novuna

Italy

Italy has a growing number of low emission zones, each with their own standards and restrictions for entry. Many of these are in northern Italy, but there are also schemes in other areas, including Sicily, some of which are combined with road tolls.

Regions often contain multiple zones, with differing regulations and requirements. Some of these can be quite complex to understand, such as only applying on certain days in the week or at different times of the day. The regulations can also vary between summer and winter.

The schemes are often less restrictive than other countries, with restrictions only applying to vehicles which fail to meet a minimum standard of Euro 1. This means that cars first registered in the UK from 01 January 1993 are unlikely to be affected. Other schemes, such as those in Rome, are more stringent and are gradually getting stricter. For example, the Fascia Verde (Green Belt) covering the entire city of Rome currently sets the minimum standard for petrol cars at Euro 3 but this will change to Euro 4 from 1 November 2024.

The schemes are generally accompanied by road signage but, as fines can be as much as €450, it is best to check the local government website, or a reputable source of travel advice, before driving in Italy.

Taking your EV to Italy?

Italy has a growing public charging infrastructure with Be Charge and Enel X Way among the names to look out for.

There's also the high-power charging station network, IONITY, who recently opened its largest charging station in Affi at Lake Garda, with has 18 charge points of up to 350 kilowatts (kW) and is 100% powered by renewable energy.



30,000+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together

Spain

Spain's Climate Change Bill states that municipalities with more than 50,000 inhabitants need to implement a low emission zone by the end of 2023. This impacts around 70% of Spanish cities.

The zones are generically known as Zonas de Bajas Emisiones (ZBE) but local schemes can also have their own name. Many of the new schemes are still being rolled out and not all of the rules and regulations have been set.

The penalty for failing to comply with the appropriate regulations can be steep, with fines of €200 or higher, depending on the region and type of vehicle.

UK registered vehicles are not generally required to display one of the four emissions stickers but some cities, including Barcelona, require you to register your vehicle before entering a low emission zone in order to be granted a single, multi-day, or long-term permit. Others limit the entry of certain vehicle types to 2 hours a day.

With many zones still being rolled out, it is best to check the local regulations before travelling. Useful resources include Madrid City Council (www.madrid.es) or Barcelona City Council (<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/qualitataire/en>).

Taking your EV to Spain?

Spain may not have the largest network but major cities, such as Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia, have reasonable coverage and there's a growing network running along the coastline.

Key providers include Iberdrola, who recently partnered with bp to deliver up to 11,000 fast-charge points across Spain and Portugal and Enel X Way's JuicePass gives you access to charging stations in handy places, such as McDonalds. There's also Repsol, who are committed to building one charging station every 50km along the main roads of the Iberian Peninsula.



22,000+
Chargpoints

Tomorrow. Together





Driving abroad with Novuna

Netherlands

There are 15 low emission zones in 12 cities and, for areas such as Amsterdam, Arnhem, The Hague, and Utrecht, diesel cars must reach the Euro 4 standard or higher.

The zones are generally signposted using a passenger car and van, with the number 4 in a green circle. There is no need to order stickers in advance but fines for failing to comply with low emission regulations are between €65 and €250.

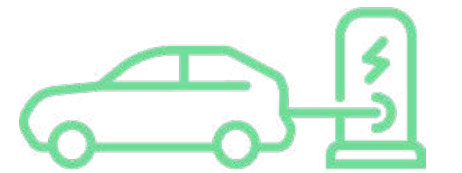
Plans are in place to expand the number of zones, with around 30 expected to be operational within the next few years.

Taking your EV to The Netherlands?

The Netherlands is home the largest charging network in Europe and has one of the lowest number of vehicles to chargepoint ratios in the world.

The Fastned high-speed charging network offers drivers with a fully electric vehicle equipped with AC, CCS or CHAdeMO connectors a pay-as-you-go tariff of €0.69 per kWh at speeds of 43kW to 350kW.

Alternatively, Vattenfall have chargepoints in 120,000 locations across the Netherlands, Norway, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark and France, which are accessible using their InCharge card or app.



114,000+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together

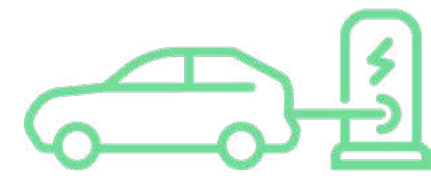
Portugal

Lisbon is the only city in Portugal which operates a low emission zone. Known as Zona de Emissões Reduzidas (ZER) it is divided into two areas with different Euro standards. However, the rules are far less restrictive than many other countries, with Zone 1 setting the minimum entry requirement at Euro 3 and Zone 2 at Euro 2. This means that, unless your car was manufactured before 2001, you are unlikely to be affected.

Taking your EV to Portugal?

Over 25% of Portugal's evolving EV charging infrastructure is in Lisbon and Porto. However, all service stations managed by Repsol and bp along the main Brisa motorways have EDP fast and ultra-fast charging capabilities. This includes chargepoints on the A1, A2, A4, A6 or A9 motorways.

Miio is one of the leading payment providers, with automatic top-up payments or pay-as-you-go options. One of the biggest networks is the Mobi.E network, which has more than 3,400 charging stations nationwide, over 1,000 of which feature fast or ultra-fast charging.



6,500+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together





Driving abroad with Novuna

Ireland

Currently, there are no low emission zones affecting passenger cars operating on the island of Ireland. However, with recent research conducted by Google showing that air population is above EU standards in Dublin then some form of low emission zone or controls may yet be on the cards.

Taking your EV to Ireland?

EasyGo is Ireland's first private, totally EV dedicated, charging company and they currently provide access to the vast majority of Ireland's public chargepoints. This includes more than 1,000 of the own chargers, 1,350+ ESB chargers and c.20,000 Circle K chargers.

Although there are no mandatory subscription costs, you do have the option to purchase an EasyGo access fob for €6 when registering, or you can pay-as-you-go using the EasyGo app.



2,400+
Chargepoints

Tomorrow. Together

Any questions?

For more handy tips and advice on all aspects of personal or business motoring, take a look at our blog
NovunaVehicleSolutions.co.uk/news-and-insights

Novuna is a trading style of **Mitsubishi HC Capital UK PLC** Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Financial Services Register no. 704348.

Registered Office: Novuna House, Thorpe Road, Staines-upon-Thames, Surrey, TW18 3HP.
Registered in Cardiff under company no. 1630491.

Tomorrow. Together