



Driving in Victoria (VIC)

Quick road rules for overseas visitors

Welcome to Victoria



Victoria welcomed a total of 117.5 million visitors, both domestic and international, in the year ending September 2025.

(VIC State Government, 2025)

✚ If you plan to drive in Victoria (VIC), it's important to understand the local road rules.

This guide provides information to help visitors drive safely, along with popular driving and road-trip tips.

Please note that this guide gives general advice only, and road users must always follow the official Victorian road rules.

The Victorian Government also provides the Road to Solo Driving Handbook and other road safety information in multiple languages on their website, making it easier for overseas visitors to understand the rules.

You can find out more [here](#).

Can you drive in VIC with an overseas licence?

If you are visiting Victoria temporarily, you may drive using your current overseas driver's licence if:

- It is valid, and
- It is written in English, or you carry an English translation or an International Driving Permit (IDP)

You can also drive in Victoria on an overseas learner or provisional licence, but you must follow the same conditions that apply to that licence and any relevant Victorian road rules.

QUICK TIP

Overseas visitors can generally use their valid overseas licence while visiting Victoria. However, if you become a permanent resident, you must change to a Victorian driver's licence within 6 months.

Always carry your driver's licence and, if required, your translation or International Driving Permit (IDP) when driving.

Drive on the left

In Victoria (and all of Australia), you must:

- Drive on the left side of the road.
- Overtake on the right, when safe.

QUICK TIP

Always stay in the left lane unless overtaking, and return to the left when it is safe to do so. Driving on the right-hand side of the road when not overtaking is illegal.

Speed limits

- Always follow the posted speed limit signs.
- Speed limits vary depending on the road type and area (urban streets, highways, and school zones).
- The speed limit is the maximum allowed. Drive slower if conditions require it, such as rain, traffic, or poor visibility.
- Driving above the speed limit is illegal and may result in fines and demerit points.
- School zones have lower speed limits during certain times of the day to help protect children.

QUICK TIP

Speed limits are strictly enforced in Vic, and speed cameras operate throughout the state. Fines and penalties apply for exceeding the limit, especially in school zones.

Mobile phone rules

Using a mobile phone while driving is very restricted in Victoria:

- You must not hold or use your phone while driving (including texting, social media, or filming).
- If using a phone for navigation, it must be securely mounted in a cradle.
- Learner and provisional drivers must not use a mobile phone at all while driving.
- Mobile phone detection cameras operate across Victoria to enforce these rules.

Distractions increase crash risk. Keep your eyes on the road.

QUICK TIP

Plan ahead! Enter your route in your maps app before driving and download the map for offline use, so you can focus on the road and still navigate if you lose mobile signal.

Seatbelts are mandatory

- All passengers must wear a seatbelt in both the front and rear seats.
- The driver is responsible for ensuring all passengers are wearing their seatbelts correctly.
- Seatbelt detection cameras operate in Victoria to enforce these rules.
- Not wearing a seatbelt can result in fines and demerit points
- Children must use approved child restraints suitable for their age and size - Find out here about [Victoria's child restraint rules](#).

QUICK TIP

Always check that everyone in the vehicle is properly belted before driving.

Car horn rules

- You may only use your horn to warn others of danger.
- It is illegal to use your horn to express anger or impatience.
- Use the horn briefly and only when necessary.

Roundabouts, intersections & U-turns

Give Way & Roundabouts

- At roundabouts, you **must** give way to vehicles already on the roundabout.
- Obey all "Give Way" and "Stop" signs at intersections. When turning into a road, you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road you are entering.

Turning & Pedestrians

- Vehicles turning **must** give way to pedestrians and bicycles where required.

U-Turn Rules in VIC

- U-turns are permitted on roads unless one of the following is present:
 - A single continuous line down the centre of the road
 - Double continuous lines down the centre of the road
 - A "No right-hand turn" sign
 - A "No U-Turn" sign
- At intersections with traffic lights, U-turns are permitted unless a sign prohibits them.
- When making a U-turn, you **must**:
 - Give way to all other vehicles and pedestrians
 - Have a clear view of traffic
 - Signal your intention and complete the turn safely

Road Line Markings

The Australian Road Rules outline a national standard that must be met, but states and territories can add to them, which is why some road rules differ across Australia; however, line markings and their meanings are the same nationally.

Line marking		What it means
	Broken white centre line	You may cross to overtake if the road ahead is clear and it is safe to do so.
	Single unbroken white line	Do not cross to overtake. You may cross to enter or leave a property, or to pass a cyclist if safe.
	Double unbroken white lines	Never cross to overtake. You may cross to enter or leave a road by the shortest route.
	Broken line on your side, unbroken on the other	You may overtake if safe. If the unbroken line is on your side, you must not cross.
	Edge lines	Mark the edge of the road. You may cross briefly to overtake a cyclist, avoid an obstruction, or turn.
	Yellow kerb lines	Indicate stopping and parking restrictions. An unbroken yellow kerb line means no stopping at any time.
	Painted islands	Do not drive on areas surrounded by double lines. You may drive on painted islands surrounded by single lines for up to 50m to enter or exit a lane.

Pedestrians & cyclists

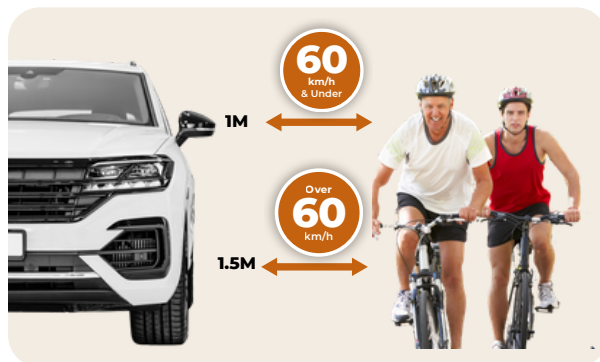
Pedestrians

As a driver, you **must** give way to pedestrians:

- In shared zones.
- At pedestrian and children's crossings.
- When turning at intersections.
- When doing a U-turn.
- When entering or leaving a driveway.

Cyclists

- Cyclists are legally allowed on most roads, usually on the left-hand side, and may use bike lanes where provide.
- When passing a cyclist, you must leave at least 1 m of space on roads ≤ 60 km/h, and 1.5 m on roads > 60 km/h.
- Always check for cyclists before opening doors, turning, or changing lanes.



Quick tip

Treat pedestrians and cyclists with care. Crashes can cause serious injury.

Drink & drug driving

Victoria has strict laws about alcohol and drugs, with different class licence holders having different Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limits:

- **Full licence:** Max BAC 0.05%
- **Learner and probationary licences:** Zero alcohol (0.00%)

QUICK TIP

Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal, including some medications that affect your ability to drive.

If you plan to drink, do not drive.

Safe following distance

- Leave at least a 3-second gap between your car and the vehicle in front.
- In rain, fog, or poor visibility, increase this to 4–5 seconds.
- Large trucks and buses need more space, so avoid following too closely.

This distance gives you time to brake safely if traffic stops suddenly.

Parking

In Australia, you must park in the same direction as the traffic travels.

Always check all parking signs carefully:

- Where can you park.
- How long can you stay.
- Whether parking is allowed or restricted.
- If it's free or paid.

Many areas use ticket machines or mobile apps to pay for parking.

Parking fines are common and can be expensive if rules are ignored.

Do not park:

- In bus zones.
- In disabled spaces without a permit.
- Near fire hydrants.
- Across driveways.

Toll roads

Victoria has cashless toll roads (no toll booths).

Payment is made using:

- An electronic toll tag linked to your vehicle, or
- A temporary pass purchased online

Cameras record your number plate and charge the toll automatically.

- If you use a toll road without paying, additional fees may apply.
- Common toll roads in Victoria include CityLink and EastLink in Melbourne.

Driving on Gravel & Unsealed Roads

Not all roads in Australia are sealed with asphalt. Gravel and unsealed roads, surfaced with loose stones, dirt, or clay, are common in regional and outback areas and are frequently encountered when travelling between rural towns, accessing national parks, or exploring areas away from major highways.

These surfaces present unique risks: loose gravel reduces grip and makes braking harder, corrugations (washboard rippling) can cause loss of steering control, and dust from other vehicles can dramatically reduce visibility.

To reduce your risk:

- Slow down. Treat the speed limit as a maximum, not a target.
- Never brake suddenly. Ease off gently to avoid skidding.
- Increase your following distance to see through dust.
- Turn headlights on at all times to stay visible.
- Check tyre tread and ensure your spare is inflated before heading out.
- Tell someone your route and ETA. Mobile coverage may be limited.

Road Trains

A road train is a truck towing two or more trailers. They can stretch up to 53.5 metres and weigh over 100 tonnes when fully loaded, making them one of the largest vehicles on Australian roads. They are essential to moving freight across the vast distances of regional and outback Australia.

In town

- Road trains are restricted to specific routes in urban areas. If you encounter one, give them plenty of space. Their size means wide turning arcs and large blind spots along both sides, directly in front, and up to 10 metres behind.

On regional roads

- Before overtaking, ensure you have at least 1.5–2 km of clear road ahead. At 100 km/h, passing a full-length road train takes longer than most drivers expect. Do not attempt to overtake if you are towing a caravan or trailer, and brace for a strong wind rush as you pass.
- Once past, do not cut back in front until the entire road train is visible in your rear-view mirror. A fully loaded road train travelling at 100 km/h can take over 250 metres to stop, nearly three football fields, so the space you leave matters.

If a road train overtakes you

- Hold your speed and keep left. When it has fully passed, flash your headlights once to signal it is safe to move back in.

Emergency vehicles

If an emergency vehicle (police, ambulance, fire truck) approaches with flashing lights or sirens:

- Move out of the way or stop safely to let it pass.
- When passing stationary emergency or roadside assistance vehicles with flashing lights, slow down to 40 km/h and give them space if possible.

Overnight stops

Overnight in your car? Only stay in designated rest areas or campgrounds. Sleeping on streets, highways, or in non-designated areas is illegal and can result in fines.

QUICK TIP

Always plan ahead for a safe overnight stop.

Driving in remote or rural areas

- Towns and fuel stations can be far apart, so always plan your fuel stops in advance.
- Drive carefully in rural and remote areas, particularly at dawn and dusk, when wildlife is most active. Watch for animals such as kangaroos, wombats, and emus crossing the road.
- Roads may be narrow, unsealed, or poorly lit at night
- Weather conditions can change quickly, including heavy rain and flooding.
- Carry essentials such as water, food, and basic emergency supplies at all times.

Flooded Roads

Floodwater on a road is any water that has risen above the normal road surface due to heavy rain, overflowing rivers, or storm surge. It may look like a shallow puddle or a slow-moving stream, but appearances are deceptive. Water moving at just 3.6 km/h (2.2 mph) is enough to knock an adult off their feet. At just 15 cm (6 inches), a vehicle can lose traction. At 30 cm (12 inches), most cars will float and be swept away. The depth and speed of floodwater are almost impossible to judge from inside a vehicle, and the road surface beneath may be damaged or completely washed away.

The rule is simple: if it's flooded, forget it.

- Never drive through floodwater regardless of how shallow it looks.
- Turn around and find an alternative route, or wait until the road is declared safe.
- If your vehicle stalls in floodwater, get out immediately and move to higher ground.
- Check live road closures before travelling in flood-prone areas: victraffic.vic.gov.au.

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Road signs guide

Warning Signs (Yellow or Red)

- Show hazards such as curves, animals, crossings, or slippery roads.
- Mean: slow down and prepare.

Regulatory Signs (Red, White, Black)

- Show the rules you must obey.
- Examples: STOP, GIVE WAY, speed limits, no U-turn.
- Ignoring these can result in fines.

Information Signs (Blue or Green)

- Show directions, services, parking, hospitals, fuel.
- Help drivers navigate and plan stops.

Roadwork Signs

- Usually orange.
- Show temporary speed limits and changed road conditions.
- Must be obeyed even if workers are not visible.

Driving tips for long routes

Distances in Victoria can be longer than expected, so allow extra travel time and enjoy your journey.

- Weather can change quickly, including heavy rain, flash flooding in some areas, and snow in alpine regions.
- Use Driver Reviver stops to take breaks and stay alert.
- Carry essential items such as water, snacks, a first aid kit, and a mobile phone charger.
- Plan your route in advance, including fuel stops, mechanical services, and access to medical facilities.
- In a medical emergency, call 000.

In areas with limited or no mobile reception:

- Inform someone of your travel route and expected arrival time before departing, if possible.
- Carry a paper map or an offline GPS device.
- Keep extra water, food, and blankets in case you become stranded.

General driving advice:

- Take regular breaks, about every 2 hours or 200 km, is recommended.
- Stretch, rest, and rotate drivers if possible.
- Drive to the conditions: slow down on wet, windy, or icy roads, and take extra care on winding or mountainous routes.

How people drive in Australia

- Driving is generally calm and rule-focused.
- Speed limits are taken seriously and heavily enforced.

Drivers expect:

- Use of indicators (turn signals).
- Obeying signs and lane markings.
- Politely merging and giving way.
- Aggressive driving and the use of a loud horn are not socially accepted.
- Long-distance driving is common, so fatigue management is important. There are always rest areas along the highways, so plan your breaks ahead of time.

Popular drives & road trip tips

Victoria offers a diverse range of landscapes and experiences for every type of traveller. You'll find stunning coastlines, scenic drives, waterfalls, rainforests, alpine regions, and charming regional towns perfect for short getaways or longer road trips.

In winter, the Victorian High Country transforms into a snow destination. Along the coast, especially around the Great Ocean Road, you can enjoy ocean views, iconic rock formations, and coastal walks. From spring through autumn, Victoria's regions come alive with outdoor activities, including hiking in national parks and exploring waterfalls and rainforests. Wildlife spotting is also popular, with opportunities to see kangaroos, koalas, and native birdlife.

Food and drink lovers will enjoy Victoria's wineries, distilleries, and craft breweries. Many offer tastings with scenic views and farm-to-table dining experiences. Coastal and regional towns also feature cafés, bakeries, and local restaurants showcasing fresh produce.

Victoria is full of iconic road trips, scenic routes, and memorable stops along the way. Next, you'll find a simple guide to distances, travel times, and recommended stops.

Fun stops & landmarks

Landmark / Stop	Location	Notes
Yarra Valley	East of Melbourne	Wineries, food, scenic countryside drives
Lake Mountain Alpine Resort	Near Marysville	Snow in winter, hiking and biking in warmer months
Ballarat Botanical Gardens	Ballarat	Historic gardens, lake views, peaceful walks
Sovereign Hill	Ballarat	Open-air gold rush museum and history experience
The Grampians (Gariwerd)	Western Victoria	Mountain views, waterfalls, Aboriginal rock art
Great Ocean Road	South-west Victoria coast	Iconic coastal drive with ocean views and cliffs
Twelve Apostles	Great Ocean Road	Famous limestone rock formations
Loch Ard Gorge	Great Ocean Road	Scenic beach, walking trails, shipwreck history
The Great Otway National Park	Otways region	Rainforest walks, waterfalls, wildlife
Mornington Penin. Hot Springs	Mornington Peninsula	Natural thermal pools and relaxation spot
Phillip Island Penguin Parade	Phillip Island	See little penguins return at sunset
Wilsons Promontory	South Gippsland	Pristine beaches, hiking trails, wildlife
Mount Buller	Victorian High Country	Skiing in winter, hiking and scenic views
Falls Creek	Alpine region	Ski resort and alpine village, summer mountain activities

Popular road trip

Route	Distance	Approx. drive time	Recommended stops & tips
Melbourne → Yarra Valley	~50 km	1–1.5 hrs	Wineries, local produce, scenic drives. Half-day trip
Melbourne → Mornington Peninsula	~80 km	1.5–2 hrs	Hot springs, coastal towns, beaches, cafés
Melbourne → Phillip Island	~140 km	2–2.5 hrs	Penguin Parade at sunset, beaches, wildlife parks
Melbourne → Ballarat (via Sovereign Hill)	~115 km	1.5 hrs	Gold rush history, Sovereign Hill, Ballarat Bot. Garden
Melbourne → Lake Mountain Alpine Resort	~120 km	2–2.5 hrs	Snow in winter, hiking and biking in warmer months
Melbourne → Great Ocean Road (Torquay start)	~100 km	1.5–2 hrs	Begin iconic coastal drive
Great Ocean Road → Twelve Apostles	~35km	30 min	Limestone formations, best at sunrise/sunset
Great Ocean Road → Loch Ard Gorge	~45km	40 min	Scenic walks, beach views, shipwreck history
Great Ocean Road → Great Otway National Park	~45km	25 min	Rainforest walks, waterfalls, wildlife spotting
Melbourne → Grampians (Gariwerd)	~260 km	3–3.5 hrs	Hiking, waterfalls, Aboriginal rock art, scenic
Melbourne → Mount Buller	~260 km	3.5–4 hrs	Skiing in winter, hiking and scenic alpine views
Mount Buller → Falls Creek (High Country loop)	~270 km	3.5–4 hrs	Alpine drives, snow activities, mountain scenery
Melbourne → Wilsons Promontory	~200 km	2.5–3 hrs	Pristine beaches, wildlife, hiking trails

Vehicle Checks

Before setting off, especially on a long trip or in regional areas, run through these basic checks. Most take less than a minute each. If any check reveals a problem, address it before you travel — not on the road.

Check	What to look for	If something's wrong
Tyre tread	The grooves on each tyre. If the tread is worn down to 1.5mm or below, the tyre must be replaced before driving. For wet weather safety, aim for at least 3mm.	Visit a tyre shop or mechanic. Do not drive on worn tyres, especially in wet conditions.
Tyre pressure	The recommended pressure is on a sticker inside the driver's door frame or in the owner's manual. Check pressure when tyres are cold, before driving, or after less than 2km. Hot tyres will give a false reading.	Most Australian service stations (petrol stations) have a free tyre pressure and air refill station. Top up there.
Brakes	Press the brake pedal firmly while stationary. It should feel solid, not spongy or soft. Then do a slow-speed stop at around 10–15 km/h and listen for grinding or pulling to one side.	Take the vehicle to a mechanic before continuing your trip.
Lights	All headlights, brake lights, indicators, and reversing lights are working	Replace the globe yourself (available at most auto shops) or visit a mechanic.
Fluids	Make sure engine oil, coolant, brake fluid, and windscreen washer fluid are between the minimum and maximum marks.	Top up at a service station or auto shop. If oil or coolant is consistently low, see a mechanic.
Wipers	The wiper blades clear the windscreen cleanly without streaking or chattering.	Replacement wiper blades. Available at most service stations and auto shops.
Windscreen	Check for chips or cracks. A small chip can spread across the entire windscreen on a hot day or on corrugated roads.	Get chips repaired at a windscreen repair shop. It can be done while you wait.
Spare tyre & jack	The spare tyre is inflated and the jack and wheel brace are accessible.	Inflate at a service station, or replace if the tyre is damaged.
Battery	If the car has been slow to start, or the battery is more than 3–4 years old, get it checked.	Most mechanics and auto shops (such as Repco or Supercheap Auto) will test your battery for free.

On the road? Share the adventure!

Scan the QR code, follow us on Instagram, and share your travel snaps using **#RSARoadTrip**.

We'd love to see and share your favourite stops, scenic views, and safe driving moments from across Australia.



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Disclaimer

This eBook has been prepared by Road Sense Australia (RSA), a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting road safety awareness and providing practical guidance for drivers across Australia. RSA offers resources, courses, and information to help all road users stay safe and informed.

This guide provides general information on road rules for overseas visitors driving in Victoria, Australia. The information is based on publicly available resources, including VicRoads guidance, and is intended as a quick reference only. It does not replace official Victorian road rules or driver licensing requirements.

Road laws and regulations may change over time and may vary depending on licence type, location, and individual circumstances.

Drivers are responsible for understanding and complying with the current road rules in Victoria.



This guide is based on the following VIC Government sources:

Linkt – Melbourne tolls

VicRoads – Road Rules & Driving Information

Laws and regulations - Australian road rules

