



CONTINENTAL COUNSEL

Are you going to be riding abroad in Europe this year? If yes, read this...

If you're planning to ride in mainland Europe, Gary France of Harley-Davidson® Authorized Tours operator Tour1 has worthwhile info to share. He has recently published a guide, setting out the most important of the laws that apply. We spoke with Gary about the things to consider – for the full document, see the 'Guides' section of www.tour1.co.uk.

Q: Anything I should know when I'm selecting riding gear?
A: By law, in France you must now wear approved gloves carrying the CE kite mark.

Q: Do you have to carry your V5 registration document in Europe?
A: Yes – in most countries, if stopped by the police you have to show the V5 or suffer serious

consequences. This will normally be a fine, but could result in your motorcycle being impounded.

Q: They cancelled the need to carry disposable breathalysers in France, didn't they?
A: No, they didn't, although there is no longer a fine for not doing so. To save potential delays, I recommend carrying them anyway.

Q: Are you required to carry a warning triangle in Europe?
A: Unlike in a car, you are not.

Q: Do I have to have a GB symbol on the back of my bike?
A: Yes, either incorporated into your rear number plate, or as a sticker attached to the back of your bike.

Q: What are the current requirements to wear hi-vis?
A: You are not required to wear hi-vis when riding, but in France every rider and pillion must have a hi-vis vest for emergencies.

Q: Can I have speed camera location warnings on my GPS or mobile phone?
A: Absolutely not – there is a huge €1,500 fine for doing so in France.

Q: If you are British and get flashed by a speed camera in Europe, you won't get a ticket, right?
A: It was right, but as of May 2017, it isn't any longer. Due to the implementation of a cross-border directive, it is now possible for EU police forces to track down British motorists' details and impose fines and possibly points on your licence.

Q: Am I required to carry a set of spare bulbs for my bike?
A: No, but you are not allowed to carry on riding with a blown bulb, so carry a set anyway.

Q: Do I need headlight deflectors for my bike?

MEET THE BOSS...
 Gary France is an experienced rider who has ridden in many different countries. He set up and runs Tour1, taking Harley-Davidson® riders on tours in Europe and the USA. Gary has also written a book about riding his Harley-Davidson around the USA called *France in America*.

A: That depends on the make and model of your Harley®. Some are set up with straight headlight beams and some point to the left. If you have the latter, you need deflectors.

Q: Do I need reflective stickers on my helmet?
A: This is very confusing, as two different laws conflict. Technically yes, if riding in France.

Q: Can I use ear buds or helmet speakers to listen to music or to chat to my pillion?
A: In some countries yes, in other countries no. Ear buds are generally not allowed, but some countries allow in-helmet speakers.

Q: Are there particular laws about riding in Belgium?
A: Yes, especially relating to what you are required to wear.

Q: Do the new Crit'Air regulations apply to motorcycles?
A: Yes, if you enter the city centres of Paris or Lyon, or a much larger area around Grenoble. See guide 14 on the www.tour1.co.uk website. ■