

Gary France
Motorcycling Guides

number

7

**PAYING FOR
MOTORWAY
TOLLS IN
EUROPE**



TOUR1

www.tour1.co.uk

Introduction

As riders, we all know that motorways are not great roads to ride, but we recognise they are a necessary evil sometimes. They do have one distinct advantage; it means you can get to the better roads quicker if you use them.

Despite our dislike for them, we all use them sometimes and in Europe, that means paying a toll in some countries.

This guide sets out what you need to know before you set out on your cross-Europe tour, because if you are going to ride in some countries it is better to take action BEFORE you get there.

This guide was produced in early 2016 and the information it contains was correct at that time.

www.tour1.co.uk

Motorways are very expensive to build and governments in different countries determine how those will be paid for. Some are free, with the costs being recovered via general taxes, but for many countries, drivers and riders need to pay a toll for using those motorways.

There are details for most of the main European countries overleaf.



The most common way of paying for tolls is by cash or credit card. Some toll booths are manned and some are pay-by-machine only.

In some countries (France and Spain) a transponder system can be used if you travel there regularly and have an account. These are generally known as Telepeage systems and this means that when you approach the tolls the transponder you are supplied with opens the barrier automatically for you and you just pay on the card at the end of your trip(s).

Which ever method of payment used there are a few considerations common to all of

TOUR1

them. Paying by card or cash means that you will need to remove gloves, find your card or your cash, pay, and then put your gloves back on. This can be a little bit stressful especially if there are many vehicles behind you. The best plan is therefore to keep your card or cash in the pocket that is easiest to access, without having to get off the bike.

If there are a group of you, don't try to be helpful and try to pay for all of the bikes using the same credit card to save time. In most cases it won't work as the machines allow just one payment per card.

If you are at a manned booth, you can pay for all bikes in a group, but don't try to ride through the open barrier together. The attendant will want to stop each bike and allow only one bike through each time the barrier opens.

If in a group, it is often a good idea to agree beforehand that you will all wait for the last person to come through the barrier before continuing on your journey. Remember, you are on a motorway and cannot turn around and ride back to see what is delaying one of you if that rider has a problem at the barrier. Nearly always, there is a small parking area just beyond the barrier.

In all countries, where you pay at a machine, you will pay the same price as a car. If you have a choice to use a manned booth, then we recommend you do that as often discounts apply for motorcycles.

AUSTRIA

Uses a pre-paid vignette, which you stick on your motorcycle. They can be purchased for different periods and you can choose which period is best to suit your trip.

There are two ways of buying these. They can be purchased at most larger petrol stations (US: gas stations).

A better alternative is to purchase the vignette in advance on the internet. Go to www.tolltickets.com and click top right on the most appropriate language flag. Then click on the map for Austria (AT) and buy the vignette for a motorcycle which has the right period for you. A ten day vignette for a motorcycle costs about 5 Euros, plus postage. NOTE - Even if you do not plan to use a motorway in Austria, you might divert onto one. These are so cheap to buy, and the fines so large, it is not worth the risk of not having one, so we recommend you purchase one in advance, just in case.

BELGIUM

Motorways are toll free.

CROATIA.

There are tolls levied on 7 stretches of motorway, plus tolls are also levied on some other roads. Tolls can be paid in cash in Croatian Kuna, or by credit card (American Express, Diners, Mastercard, Maestro, Visa).

FRANCE

Tolls are levied on most French motorways. Payment is collected at toll booths where tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: Eurocard, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are not accepted).

Some regular users of French motorways have Telepeaje transponders with an account.

GERMANY

Motorways are toll free.

ITALY

Tolls are levied on most Italian motorways. Payment is collected at toll booths where tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: Eurocard, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are not accepted).

LIECHTENSTEIN

Motorways are toll free.

LUXEMBOURG

Motorways are toll free.

NETHERLANDS (HOLLAND)

Motorways are toll free.

PORTUGAL

There are tolls on some motorways. Payment is collected at toll booths where tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: Eurocard, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are not accepted).

SLOVENIA

Uses a pre-paid vignette, which you stick on your motorcycle. They can be purchased for different periods and you can choose which period is best to suit your trip.

There are two ways of buying these. They can be purchased at most larger petrol stations (US: gas stations).

A better alternative is to purchase the vignette in advance on the internet. Go to www.tolltickets.com and click top right on the most appropriate language flag. Then click on the map for Slovenia (SL) and buy the vignette for a motorcycle which has the right period for you. A seven day vignette for a motorcycle costs about 8 Euros, plus postage. NOTE - Even if you do not plan to use a motorway in Slovenia, you might divert onto one. These are so cheap to buy, and the fines so large, it is not worth the risk of not having one, so we recommend you purchase one in advance, just in case.

SPAIN

Tolls are levied on most Spanish motorways. Payment is collected at toll booths where tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: Eurocard, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are not accepted).

Some regular users of Spanish motorways have Telepeaje transponders with an account.

SWITZERLAND

Uses a pre-paid vignette, which you stick on your motorcycle. They cover a whole year and they cannot be purchased for a shorter period.

There are two ways of buying these. They can be purchased at border crossings when entering Switzerland. Note however, that some more remote roads do not have border crossings and there is no opportunity to purchase vignettes on those.

A better alternative is to purchase the vignette in advance on the internet. Go to www.tolltickets.com and click top right on the most appropriate language flag. Then click on the map for Switzerland (CH) and buy the vignette for a motorcycle which has the right period for you.

A year vignette for a motorcycle costs about 38.50 Euros, plus postage. NOTE - Even if you do not plan to use a motorway in Switzerland you might divert onto one, so unless you are certain you will not use a Swiss motorway, we recommend you purchase one in advance, just in case.

UNITED KINGDOM

Most motorways are toll free, although a very small number, plus a few large bridges, charge a toll.

Payment is collected at toll booths where tolls can be paid in cash or with the following cards: American Express, Mastercard, and Visa. (Debit cards Maestro and Electron are sometimes not accepted).