

TRANSPORT AND SERVICES

This section includes information about regulation on the use of a foreign driver's license and a foreign-registered car. Driving and owning a car in the Faroe Islands, and how public transport is organised. Other services, financial and communication services are also described.

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TRANSPORT

The roads are the main transport artery of Faroese society. Roads connect 87% of the population. Even if the public transport system is well established and parts of the population depend on this system (to arrive at work on time, etc.), the preferred means of transportation amongst the majority of the islanders is the car.

Can I use my driver's license?

Driving licenses issued in Nordic countries and EU countries (and countries that have implemented an EU compatible driving license regulation) are valid in the Faroe Islands. Persons with a driving license issued in one of these countries may exchange their license for a Faroese driving license without taking a new driving test. However, it is not a requirement to exchange the driving license when it is issued in one of these countries.

- In order to exchange a driving license the foreign driving license must be valid.
- You will have to submit an application form and any required documents in order to exchange your foreign driving license.

Persons with a driving license issued in a country outside the EU and the Nordic region must exchange their driving license for a Faroese driving license if they intend to stay for a period longer than 90 days. A foreign driving license can be used for up to 90 days. Before exchanging their license, they must pass a new driving test.

The documents you must hand in to the case officers at the Faroese Vehicle Administration, Akstovan, are:

- The valid foreign driving license
- Application form
- Documents proving your identity – e.g. ID card or passport
- Passport photo (Passport photo requirements)
- Medical or doctor's certificate (no older than 3 months)
- Payment for the driving test (incl. theory and practical) DKK 550
- Issuance cost of the driving license DKK 250
- Residence permit or proof of legal stay (if the applicant is not a Nordic citizen)

If interpretation is needed for the tests it can be arranged. In such case you

have to notify Akstovan as soon as possible. Interpretation can be arranged by Akstovan, but you will have to bear the interpreting expenses.

For further information please contact Akstovan: Akstovan, www.akstovan.fo, tel. 350400

Car loan

Most banks can grant you a loan at a slightly higher interest rate than for a mortgage. It is often a requirement that around 20 to 30 per cent of the purchase price is paid in cash.

A bank might give a car loan if the client has a steady income and otherwise a healthy economic situation. The banks are always willing to offer advice on these matters.

ADVISORY CHECKLIST
FOR PERSONS IMPORTING A USED VEHICLE FOR THE FIRST-TIME REGISTRATION



1. BEFORE ARRIVAL AND IMPORT OF VEHICLE TO THE FAROE ISLANDS

Check with the local authority where your vehicle is registered if there are export restrictions and ask the Faroese authorities about what the approximate costs would be.



2. ARRIVAL TO THE FAROE ISLANDS - APPROACH THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES

Import fees are to be paid to the customs authorities, including value added tax. If the vehicle is produced in the EU you can be exempted from the GATT-tax. In such a case you must provide documentation, the original certificate documentation from the seller with a stamp from the customs authorities in that country.



3. INSURANCE FROM A FAROESE INSURANCE COMPANY

The insurance provider will notify Akstovan when a new a car or vehicle insurance is obtained (an ID no. is required).



4. DOCUMENTS AND THE NOTICE FORM FOR INSPECTIONS, FRÁBOÐAN TIL SÝN

Use the notification form for inspections at Akstovan and gather the required documents for the case officers at Akstovan. The fees are to be paid at the very end of the procedures.



5. INSPECTION AND REGISTRATION

After inspections have been completed and the fees are paid, the registration and Faroese license plates can be issued.



6. PAY THE HALF-YEARLY WEIGHT TAX/CARBON TAX

After registration of your vehicle you will receive an invoice for a half-yearly weight tax/carbon tax.

Remember

that you may be exempted if you are importing the car as removal goods when you are moving to the islands (also see the section "Moving to the Faroe Islands").

How do I register my car?

All motored vehicles used in the Faroe Islands must be registered with the Vehicle Administration, *Akstovan* (tourists are exempted from this rule).

Anyone who moves to the islands and brings a foreign motor vehicle must ensure that the vehicle is registered at *Akstovan* within the first two weeks after they have registered a legal residence address with the local authority. The foreign license plates will be exchanged with a Faroese set of plates at the end of the procedure.

It is always recommendable to contact *Akstovan* and enquire about registration costs before importing a vehicle.

Registration costs can be considerable, depending on the type and age of the vehicle.

For a first-time registration of a used imported vehicle the following applies:

When the car arrives you should turn to the customs authorities, TAKS, for further instructions. It is always advisable to have the necessary paperwork in order, as soon as possible, including your

removal goods certification and original registration certificate. After customs, it is advisable to contact *Akstovan* for instructions on how to proceed. You will be required to fill out papers regarding inspections and hand in documentation. This includes documentation from the country where the vehicle was registered.

The vehicle must be inspected and approved by the Vehicle Administration, *Akstovan*, and you will be required to pay the fees related to inspection, issuance of license plates, registration, carbon dioxide outlet, and weight of the vehicle. Faroese liability insurance is also required before registration of a vehicle.

The vehicle can only be registered if the owner (the user of the vehicle) who signed the notice for vehicle inspection has moved to the Faroe Islands and is registered with a legal address.

The registration costs increase considerably when the age of the vehicle is 5 years or less.

Required documentation:

The owner of the vehicle is obliged to

provide documentation for the original value from the car manufacturer or an approved agent.

Concerning the original value of the vehicle approved documentation must be provided:

- The original invoice from the manufacturer with the car model no./ vehicle identification no., or
- Original value of the specific vehicle model from an approved agent.

Freight costs are added to the original value of the vehicle for the purpose of calculating registration costs.

The required documentation is as follows:

- Notice for inspection (form regarding inspections in the Faroe Islands)
- The original foreign registration document (concerning ownership and technical details)
- Copy of the invoice from the foreign manufacturer or agent addressed to you, the importer of the vehicle
- Freight letter or invoice (incl. waybill no.)
- Receipt from customs with value added tax

It is very important that you familiarize yourself with the applicable regulations before you import or use a foreign-registered motor vehicle in the Faroe Islands. If you violate the regulation, for instance if you fail to register the vehicle within two weeks after registering at the municipality, you risk getting a fine from the police or having the foreign license plates confiscated.

Insurance

Car insurance can be a combination of several separate insurance policies.

Liability insurance is a type of insurance that all car owners must take out, i.e. it is not optional. The insurance covers every type of damage or injury the car can inflict on other people or objects. When registering a car in the Faroe Islands, you will have to take out liability insurance.

Insurance covering loss or damage to your own car is optional. There are two providers of insurances in the Faroes: Tryggingarfelagið Føroyar, www.trygging.fo, tel. 345600
Trygd, www.trygd.fo, tel. 358100



IN CASE OF A MINOR CAR ACCIDENT OR MINOR DAMAGES

In case of minor car accidents or minor damages to a car, a main rule is that the drivers of both vehicles involved should find a solution together. They should exchange names, phone numbers and license plates. The obligatory liability insurance of every car owner covers accidents; the proper thing to do is to contact the owner or to inform the police.

If the owner of the involved car with minor damages cannot be reached, the police can assist. Call them and ask for help.

In case of disagreements between two drivers the police should be contacted, or if the damages are extensive, or if you are in doubt, call the police.

Remember: In case of a violation of the traffic act the police must always be notified.

VEHICLE CHECKS, VEHICLE LAWS, AND ANNUAL OBLIGATIONS

All motor vehicles registered in the Faroe Islands pay weight tax twice a year. For vehicles that are registered after 1st of January 2017, the owner is required to pay a carbon based tax.

From December 1st to April 30th, the use of summer tires (min. 1.6 mm tread depth) is only allowed if the weather conditions permit it. During this period winter tires or studded tires with a tread depth of 3 mm are required, according to regulation, if the weather conditions make it necessary.

Periodic technical inspections, every second year, are mandatory. Akstovan sends a letter with the inspection time, place and date to the owner. The inspection fee is included in the weight tax. The aim of the inspections is to make sure that the car meets all regulations and is in adequate condition.

Short term stay - vehicle registration

Foreigners who plan to stay in the Faroe Islands for less than one year and are in possession of a vehicle registered abroad may usually use their vehicle

without registering it in the Faroe Islands. However, this is not a rule and it is important to request a special permit from Akstovan. The vehicle may not be used by anyone residing in the Faroe Islands or for any commercial carriage.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OWNERS

Use of studded tires is allowed between October 15th and May 1st.

Weight tax – deadlines: January 2nd and July 1st (if the invoice is not paid after two reminders, the police will be notified and will remove the license plates)

From December 1st until April 30th, the use of summer tires is only allowed if conditions permit it. In this period winter tires or studded tires with a tread depth of min. 3 mm is required, according to regulation, if weather conditions make it necessary. In other words – drivers who fail to take the weather conditions into consideration and do not use appropriate tires are violating traffic regulations.

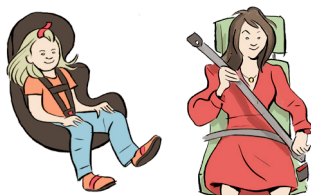
VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Road traffic regulations are very strict in the Faroe Islands. The police carry out traffic stops on a regular basis on Faroese roads. Particular emphasis is placed on speed controls, random breathalyser tests (both for alcohol and other substances), behaviour in traffic, and the use of protective equipment such as safety belts and child seats. Violations of the Faroese Traffic Act, such as speeding or driving under the influence, can lead to serious penalties like fines, confiscation of driving licenses and, in more serious cases, imprisonment.

The Faroes apply a penalty point system (known as a punch card system, *Klippikortskipan*) and the police can give you a point each time you commit a serious traffic offence (together with a fine). Sanctions are imposed according to the penalty points. Accumulating three penalty points within a period of three years will lead to a conditional confiscation of your driving license.

Driving with
the headlights on is
mandatory at
all times.

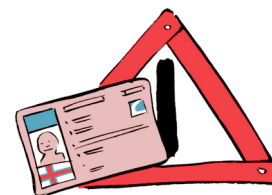
TRAFFIC RULES



The use of seat belts is obligatory, including in the back seat. Children must be secured separately in a child seat or carry cot according to the child's age and height.



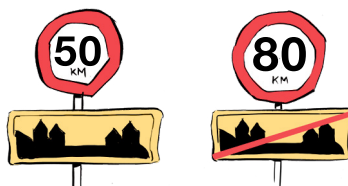
The prescribed alcohol blood limit for driving a vehicle is 0.2 mg/ml.



When driving, drivers must have their driving license, vehicle registration certificate, and a warning triangle with them in the vehicle at all times



The use of handheld mobile telephones while driving is forbidden.



Speed limits are 50 kph in residential areas and 80 kph outside residential areas, unless otherwise indicated by road signs.



For regularly updated information on weather and traffic conditions in specific parts of the islands, visit www.landsverk.fo or call 340800.



IN CASE OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT

- If you are involved in a traffic accident, you must stop and provide assistance and help to secure the scene.
- Persons involved in a traffic accident have a duty to supply their name, address and license number.
- In the event of a death or serious injury, the police must be alerted using the emergency telephone number 112. Vehicles involved in such accidents must only be moved with the consent of the police.

VIOLATION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS - CONTINUED

For new drivers the penalty point system is stricter for the first three years after obtaining a license. The main goal and purpose of this point system is educational and it serves to warn reckless drivers.

If you receive a penalty point in connection with a road accident, or if other people's health was at risk, the court can decide to suspend your driving license.

Minor offences and more serious traffic violations are penalised in different ways:

Penalty charges

For example, failure to use a safety belt, using a mobile telephone, illegal parking, etc. The penalty charge is sent by post. The fine is to be paid according to the instructions in the letter.

Fixed penalties – penalty point

Imposed when the driver admits to the offence or violation on the spot. For example: speeding at 21 kph or more over the limit, if your child is not secured adequately in a child seat or carry cot, driving in the wrong direction on a one-

way street, etc. A penalty point will be imposed along with a fine. A notification concerning the penalty point will be stated on the fine that will be sent to the driver.

Penalty notice

In the case of more serious offences, the driver is fined and the prosecution might bring the case to court. For example: excessive speeding, driving through a red light, dangerous overtaking, if the vehicle poses a danger to traffic, etc. A penalty point will be imposed for such offences. In the event of a conviction by the court, the person in question will be sentenced.

Unconditional/suspended prison sentences

For especially serious offences, such as: driving under the influence, causing injury to another person as a result of speeding, etc. A driver may be tried in court, receive penalty points and subject to a fine.

Disqualification from driving

The police can suspend a driving license in the event of reckless driving or very serious offences: driving under the

influence, speeding, collisions, traffic accidents.

Contact the police for further information regarding traffic regulation. Furthermore, The Faroese Road Safety Council, *Ráðið fyrri Ferðslutrygd*, is an organisation that works to improve road safety - www.rff.fo, tel. 220064.

TUNNELS – NO STOP TOLL ROAD

There are two sub-sea tunnels and a payment system is in place for each of these two.

You have to pay a toll to use the sub-sea tunnels. The road toll is to be paid afterwards at a gas service station - either at a Magn or Effe service station. Alternatively, a bill will be sent to the address of the driver/owner of the vehicle via automatic photo-registration of the license plates. The billing process is initiated when the vehicle returns to the mainland islands. A discount subscription is available.

For subscription details and for further information contact the office:

Tunnil, www.tunnil.fo, 350200

PUBLIC TRANSPORT - BUSES AND FERRIES

The Faroe Islands have a well established public transport system and an extensive network of buses and ferries covering the islands. The local helicopter service connects remoter islands to the mainland islands.

Towns and villages are connected to the public bus network. The public transport company, Strandfaraskip Landsins, operates the bus and ferry service.

In Tórshavn and Klaksvík there are urban bus services free of charge. These are run by the local municipalities.

The helicopter service is run by the airline company Atlantic Airways.

Regular flights as well as car and cargo ferries are available all year round for transport of people and goods to and from the Faroe Islands.

For further information: Strandfaraskip Landsins, www.ssl.fo, 24/7 Information desk on all routes, tel. 343030, or Atlantic Airways, www.atlantic.fo, 341000

Special transport for disabled people

If you are not able to use any kind of public transport due to illness or handicap for a shorter or longer period, you can apply to use the special transport service.

The service is accessible in the municipalities of Klaksvík, Eysturoy and Tórshavn.

For more information, please contact the municipality office.

BANK SERVICES

How can I get an account for my wages and other things? Which options do I have? What documents will I need?

You will need a Faroese ID no., p-tal, to open an account with a Faroese bank. The bank is under legal obligation to see and get a copy of the legitimate identity documents of each person who opens an account, e.g. passport or an EU-driving license.

A range of payments, such as wages, public allowances, pension and excess tax, are transferred to a bank account. Therefore you will need an account.

Faroese banks offer regular payment services and provide loans for various purposes.

With these services you can enter into an automatic payment agreement with your bank in order to pay your bills on time. This means that the amount due is debited from your account on the due date. This is a very common way to make regular payments and transactions for mortgage payments; electricity, heating bills and phone bills; and so on. In this way you will avoid reminder fees. The banks offer mortgage loans for

buying real estate property and loans for other purposes, e.g. for purchasing a car. The bank will make an assessment of your financial situation before granting a loan. Usually, the bank will need to see documentation of your income, for instance your pay slips from the last months. Interest rates are higher for cash credit.

Banking services also include the issuing of credit cards and a personal online-banking service, which is also available in English. Customers are advised to use the online-banking system as banks often take service fees each time you make transactions in person at the counter in the bank.

Banks can provide good advice on your private economy and are available for personal meetings regarding what options you have as a customer. But at the same time, remember that banks are private commercial operations with their own commercial interests.

When choosing a subscription for a mobile phone, a fixed landline or broadband internet, it is advisable to check the terms, prices and your own needs. There are two providers to choose from.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET

When choosing a subscription for a mobile phone, a fixed landline or broadband internet, it is advisable to check the terms, prices and your own needs. There are two providers to choose from.

NATIONAL TELEVISION

The National Faroese Broadcasting Company, Kringvarp Føroya, transmits Faroese radio and TV programmes, as well as Danish and Norwegian TV programmes and other TV programmes with Danish subtitles.

The Faroese Broadcasting Company is financed through a combination of licence fees, radio and TV commercials and TV bingo.

HOW DO I OPEN AN ACCOUNT?

- You will need a Faroese ID no., p-tal.
- A copy of legitimate identity documents, e.g. passport and driving licence proving Faroese ID number and address in the Faroe Islands.
- Contact the bank for a meeting.

POSTAL SERVICE

Posta is the national postal service in the Faroe Islands. There are seven post offices around the islands. Opening hours vary from place to place. Services include the following:

- Sale of envelopes
- Sale of stamps for letters, postcards and small parcels
- Sending letters by recorded delivery
- Sending letters, postcards and parcels
- Sending international reply coupons or pre-payment of reply postage
- Sending insured letters
- Collection of parcels and letters sent by recorded delivery

For information about opening hours, your nearest post office, and Posta's services, visit www.posta.fo or call the main office, tel. 346000.

PETS

Dogs and cats can only be brought to the Faroe Islands if the owner has a permanent address in the Faroe Islands or is moving to the Faroe Islands to live. Pets are not permitted on stays shorter than 3 months or in transit through the Faroe Islands to another country.

As a general rule, it is prohibited to import exotic and dangerous animals to the Faroe Islands.

Fighting dogs and other dogs with aggressive behaviour are not allowed to enter the Faroe Islands.

A dog or a cat that is to be imported to the Faroe Islands must meet a number of requirements. These are related to ID no. (for dogs and cats) in line with ISO standards, vaccinations, completed treatment against parasites, a veterinary certificate, etc.

The Food, Veterinary and Environmental Agency, *Heilsufrøðiliga Starvsstovan*, supervise the import of animals to the Faroe Islands. The agency can refuse import of an animal if the disease situation in the country of origin is insecure, or if the veterinary certificate is lacking or incomplete.

For further information contact the Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority, *Heilsufrøðiliga Starvsstovan*, www.hfs.fo, tel. 556400.



REMEMBER

Regarding Postal Services

- Mark your letterbox with your full name. If you have children, their full names should also appear on the letterbox
- Letters from Faroese public authorities are not sent by recorded delivery. You should therefore open every letter you get, as it may contain important information and deadlines for you to respond