中國香港汽車會
HONG KONG, CHINA AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
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Advise for Driving Abroad

The direction of driving depending on foreign country traffic regulations. About one-third of the world's countries practice right-hand drive (driving on the left). This is common in former British colonies and some countries that retain traditional. Such as Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Cyprus, South Africa, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Traffic rules are similar to Hong Kong traffic rules.

If you are planning to travel to the above regions, please pay attention to the following:

1. Wear seat belts and drive on the left

   Both drivers and passengers must wear seat belts at all times. If you have children 1.35 meters (4 feet 5 inches) tall or under age of 6, child safety seats must be used while the vehicle is in motion. It is recommended to request child safety seats from the rental company when renting a car.

2. Speed Limits and Road Signs

   Before driving abroad, make sure to the understanding of the speed limits and road signs, such as “Stop”, “Give Way”, “Merging Lanes”, and “Slow”...etc. If you are unsure, verify them in advance. Never check them while driving to avoid distraction and causing traffic accidents.

3. Changing Lanes and Road Signs

   In the countries driving on the left, changing lanes and road signs are similar to those in Hong Kong. White dashed lines indicate where you can change lanes, while solid white lines indicate where you cannot. When changing lanes, remember to use your turn signals to alert other road users. When merging into a main road at a highway merging point, pay attention to vehicles on the main road

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and adjust vehicle speed to merge into the nearest lane when there is sufficient space. After merging, continue driving along the lane until you are accustomed to the speed of surrounding vehicles before changing lanes if necessary.

4. Overtaking

Do not overtake unless it is safe for yourself and others. Observe the road conditions ahead and behind before overtaking. Only overtake when you are certain there are no obstacles within a sufficient distance. Before moving to the outer lane, check your rearview mirror and send signal. On roads with high speeds, oncoming vehicles may be traveling faster than expected. Ensure there are no oncoming vehicles for a considerable distance before overtaking. When overtaking, quickly pass the vehicle in front, move away, and return to the left side of the road as soon as possible; do not force your way in.

5. Be aware of pedestrians

Regardless of time or place, drivers have a legal and moral responsibility to prevent and avoid hitting pedestrians, even if they are crossing the road haphazardly. Therefore, you should always give way to pedestrians on the road. In some countries, vehicles must stop and yield to pedestrians crossing the road when turning at a green light. Please be aware of this.

6. Avoid driving while fatigued

Driving when you are not mentally alert or have not had enough sleep will increase the risk of accidents. Additionally, because driving requires a high degree of concentration, it is recommended not to schedule your trip too frequently. 7. Properly Arrange for Drivers to Get Sufficient Rest to Avoid Drowsy Driving.

7. Using Mobile Phones

Many countries' traffic laws prohibit using mobile phones to send or receive text messages or make or receive calls while driving. They also prohibit using mobile phones as GPS devices, even when the car is parked. Using a phone while driving is a violation of the law. For safety reasons, please refrain from using mobile phones.

8. Vehicle Breakdown/Stalling and Emergency

If your vehicle stalls while driving, do not panic; remain calm. Immediately turn on your hazard lights to warn other road users. Move your vehicle off the lane and to a safe area, shoulder, or sidewalk to prevent collisions with following vehicles. You and your passengers should fasten your seatbelts and remain inside the vehicle to await assistance. Then, immediately notify the police using a mobile phone.

9. Know rules

Ensure you know the rules and regulations of the country you are driving in as each country has different requirements regarding what you need to follow.