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N o r w a y

N o r w a y h a s g o n e N o r w e g i a n d r i v e r s w h o v i o l a t e t h e p a d e t i c a l



The speed limits are among Europe's lowest, while the reactions are certainly Europe's toughest. Motor roads with two lanes (Class A) may have a max speed of 100 km/h - but this only applies to a total distance of less than 100 kms. The rest have a max speed of 90km/h.

The common speed limits outside urban areas are 60, 70 or 80 km/h.

Norway is the only European country who regularly condemns its citizens to prison sentences for speeds that seem perfectly natural for citizens of other western countries.

140 km/h on a motor road under perfect conditions is enough to land you in jail for at least 18 days - **unconditionally**.

And please remember that **any license withdrawal is not subject to any court order** as in other European countries. The police may even confiscate your license on the spot (you have to leave your bike by the road) for 14 days if they only *suspect* that you have committed a crime that might lead to license withdrawal.

The controls are everywhere, they are done by both radar, laser, air, civilian cars (lots of!) and helicopters. And the civilian cars are next to impossible to spot: They never sport double rear view mirrors as in other European countries.

Radar-jammers, laser-jammers and detectors are, of course, strictly forbidden.



Of special interest to motorcyclists is the sign "Overtaking forbidden" (or crossing a double line): Although the sign shows to cars, don't be fooled. Cars may not overtake cars, *cars may overtake motorcycles, motorcycles may not overtake cars!* There surely must be purely historical reasons for this and it is many years ago that the then Western German traffic authorities tried to change this rule. The rest of Europe, however, did not agree..

Of course, we all know that this is an incredibly stupid rule. **In Norway, the rule is strictly enforced and will leave with a fine of NOK 5200 (630 ?) and no license for between 9 and 12 months.**



Another, special Norwegian (and German) rule causes much confusion and often results in misunderstandings and accidents for foreigners who visit Norway.

If you drive on a road which is not explicitly marked with right of way, you must always stop for traffic which arrives from your right. This rule is strictly enforced and applies even if you are driving on a major road and the traffic from your right is on a minor road.

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The RoadMC videos for download are:

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UPDATE 6.12.2002:

The Norwegian government today decided to increase the traffic fines with up to 30% (!). Once again, the reason is "increased traffic security". By now, there should be no doubt that Norway has both the worlds highest fines and the strongest reactions to traffic speeding?

UPDATE 11.12.2003:

The Norwegian government has decided to increase the traffic fines with up to 30% (!). Once again, the reason is "increased traffic security". And this time the increases come together with a brand new point system.

UPDATE 19.1.2005

The Norwegian government has decided to increase the traffic fines with up to 30% (!). Seems like a never ending story. And for your information, the Norwegian yearly inflation is now below 2%. But then the official inflation rate does not include fines, taxes ...

The latest news is that the Norwegian police (!) reacts to the high traffic fines (you got it right: The police, *not* the by now rather obedient Norwegian public). The police feels frustrated that many traffic fines are much higher than the fines for, for example, possession of heroine. They have sent a letter of protest to the Norwegian government and threatens that they now will prioritize other police work than traffic controls.

The new fines will go into effect on February 1. 2005. (the fines are specified below)



In three years the Norwegian traffic fines have more than doubled.



[Click here to read my reader's letter to Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten in January-02.](#)

It was, of course, refused. Anything related to speeding seems to be a tabooed topic in Norway. (this is in Norwegian)

Here's advice on how to Escape from Norway:

'After two days in Norway, we realized that it is a country which is extremely risk adverse. The roads are beautiful, but the speed limits are crippling. 90 km/h on the autobahns (the few they have), and 80 km/h maximum on secondary roads (which is just about every road in Norway) As a means of comparison, if the Blue Ridge Parkway were in Norway, the speed limits would be under 30 mph the entire length of it. You can begin to imagine our frustration. Coupling that with the horror stories that we'd heard about the relish with which the police enforce the speed limits, and we were caught between a beautiful highway and a radar gun. Ronny said that he'd never received a speeding ticket that cost less than \$200. He also said that if you are caught at 20 km over (12 mph), they arrest you and take your license. Putting all that information together, and knowing there was 1200 miles of coastal road between here and Nordkapp, we realized that Norwegian roads and two Wile E. Coyotes (Jed and I) were incompatible. The only solution was to get the hell out of Dodge. Sweden here we come! This was also the advice I had gotten from two other motorcyclists who had previously ridden to Nordkapp. They both said that they'd NEVER ride all the way north again in Norway. Sweden had better, straighter, flatter roads, and was much more traveler friendly.'



Welcome to Norway!



The important numbers :

Speed-limit	30	50	60	70	80	90	100
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License withdrawn,
min. 6 months

JAIL - UNCONDITIONAL**

56	76	86	106/ 111*	116/ 121*	126/ 131*	141
60?	92	110?	121?	130	142?	155?



In detail :

Speed limit	Violation	Fine (NOK)	Fine (Euro)
60 km/h and lower	+ 1-5 km/h	600 kr	72 €
	+ 6-10 km/h	1 600 kr	194 €
	+ 11-15 km/h	2 900 kr	352 €
	+ 16-20 km/h	4 200 kr	509 €
	+ 21-25 km/h	6 500 kr	788 €

License withdrawn

+ 26 km/h and more

Heavy fine, max 10 000kr

JAIL**

+ 31 km/h and more*

Jail: Minimum 18 days

70 km/h and higher	+ 1-5 km/h	600 kr	72 €
	+ 6-10 km/h	1 600 kr	194 €
	+ 11-15 km/h	2 600 kr	315 €
	+ 16-20 km/h	3 600 kr	436 €
	+ 21-25 km/h	4 900 kr	594 €
	+ 26-30 km/h	6 500 kr	788 €
	+ 31-35 km/h	7 800 kr	945 €

License withdrawn

+ 41 km/h and more

Heavy fine, max 10 000kr

JAIL**

+ 51 km/h and more

Jail: Minimum 18 days

?) Data are uncertain, please inform me

*) the lowest number is for "motorway" Class B (single lanes, no crossing traffic), the highest for motorway Class A(double lanes)

**) In 2007 it became practice to sentence the guilty to community work when the speed just surpassed the old limits. This means that with a speeding between 130km/h and 135 km/h in a 80 km/h zone, you will no longer be jailed. The same goes for speeding between 92 km/h and 95 km/h in a 50km/h zone. For other zones, the Norwegian Supreme Court has not set a common practice. But don't expect too much: This will only go for the first 5 km's above the old jail limit!

For the official numbers on fines, see [Lovdata: Forskrift om forenklet forelegg i vegtrafikksaker](#). (Norwegian only)

Values in Euro are approximate. For accurate conversions, please see www.xe.com.



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License withdrawal periods :

From January 1. 2004 it will be the Norwegian courts who are responsible for the withdrawal of licenses (earlier it was, in contrast with most other European countries, the police who decided (!) Now, thanks to the European Union, Norwegians will get at least some jurisdictional protection).

Below are the new rules but be aware: These rules presume dry asphalt in daylight on straight roads ..



License withdrawals :

Speed km/h	License withdrawal period
56 - 65	3 - 7 months
65 - 70	7 - 9 months





70 - 75	9 - 12 months
75 - 80	12 - 18 months
80 - 85	18 - 24 months
85 - 90	24 - 30 months
90 - 90	30 - 36 months
Over 90	Over 36 months



66 - 75	3 - 6 months
75 - 80	6 - 8 months
80 - 83	8 - 10 months
83 - 87	10 - 13 months
87 - 90	13 - 15 months
90 - 93	15 - 18 months
93 - 97	18 - 21 months
97 - 100	21 - 24 months
100 - 105	24 - 28 months
105 - 110	28 - 33 months
Over 110	Over 33 months



76 - 82	3 - 6 months
82 - 90	6 - 9 months
90 - 95	9 - 12 months
95 - 100	12 - 15 months
100 - 105	15 - 18 months
105 - 110	18 - 21 months
110 - 114	21 - 24 months
114 - 118	24 - 27 months
118 - 122	27 - 30 months
122 - 126	30 - 33 months
126 - 130	33 - 36 months
Over 130	Over 36 months



86 - 95	3 - 6 months
95 - 100	6 - 8 months
100 - 106	8 - 12 months
106 - 112	12 - 16 months
112 - 118	16 - 20 months
118 - 124	20 - 24 months
124 - 130	24 - 28 months
130 - 136	28 - 32 months
136 - 142	32 - 36 months
Over 142	Over 36 months



106 - 110	3 - 6 months
110 - 114	6 - 8 months
114 - 118	8 - 10 months
118 - 120	10 - 11 months
120 - 123	11 - 13 months
123 - 126	13 - 15 months
126 - 129	15 - 17 months
129 - 134	17 - 20 months
134 - 140	20 - 24 months
140 - 146	24 - 28 months
146 - 152	28 - 32 months
152 - 160	32 - 36 months
Over 160	Over 36 months



116 - 120	3 - 5 months
120 - 130	5 - 8 months
130 - 140	8 - 13 months
140 - 150	13 - 19 months
150 - 160	19 - 25 months
160 - 170	25 - 30 months

	170 - 180	30 - 36 months
	Over 180	Over 36 months
 Motorway class B	126 - 135	3 - 6 months
	135 - 145	6 - 9 months
	145 - 151	9 - 12 months
	151 - 157	12 - 15 months
	157 - 163	15 - 18 months
	163 - 169	18 - 21 months
	169 - 175	21 - 24 months
	175 - 181	24 - 27 months
	181 - 187	27 - 30 months
	187 - 194	30 - 33 months
	194 - 200	33 - 36 months
	Over 200	Over 36 months

 Motorway class A	131 - 135	3 - 5 months
	135 - 137	5 - 6 months
	137 - 139	6 - 7 months
	139 - 141	7 - 8 months
	141 - 145	8 - 9 months
	145 - 151	9 - 12 months
	151 - 157	12 - 15 months
	157 - 163	15 - 18 months
	163 - 169	18 - 21 months
	169 - 175	21 - 24 months
	175 - 181	24 - 27 months
	181 - 187	27 - 30 months
	187 - 194	30 - 33 months
	194 - 200	33 - 36 months
	Over 200	Over 36 months

 Motorway class C	141 - 145	3 - 5 months
	145 - 147	5 - 6 months
	147 - 149	6 - 7 months
	149 - 151	7 - 8 months
	151 - 155	8 - 9 months
	155 - 161	9 - 12 months
	161 - 167	12 - 15 months
	167 - 173	15 - 18 months
	173 - 179	18 - 21 months
	179 - 185	21 - 24 months
	185 - 191	24 - 27 months
	191 - 197	27 - 30 months
	197 - 204	30 - 33 months
	204 - 210	33 - 36 months
	Over 210	Over 36 months

For the official facts on license withdrawals, see [Lovdata: Forskrift om tap av retten til å føre motorvogn](#). (Norwegian only)

Values in Euro are approximate. For accurate conversions, please see www.xe.com.

Please report any changes or errors to [terje\(at\)enge.no](mailto:terje(at)enge.no)

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