



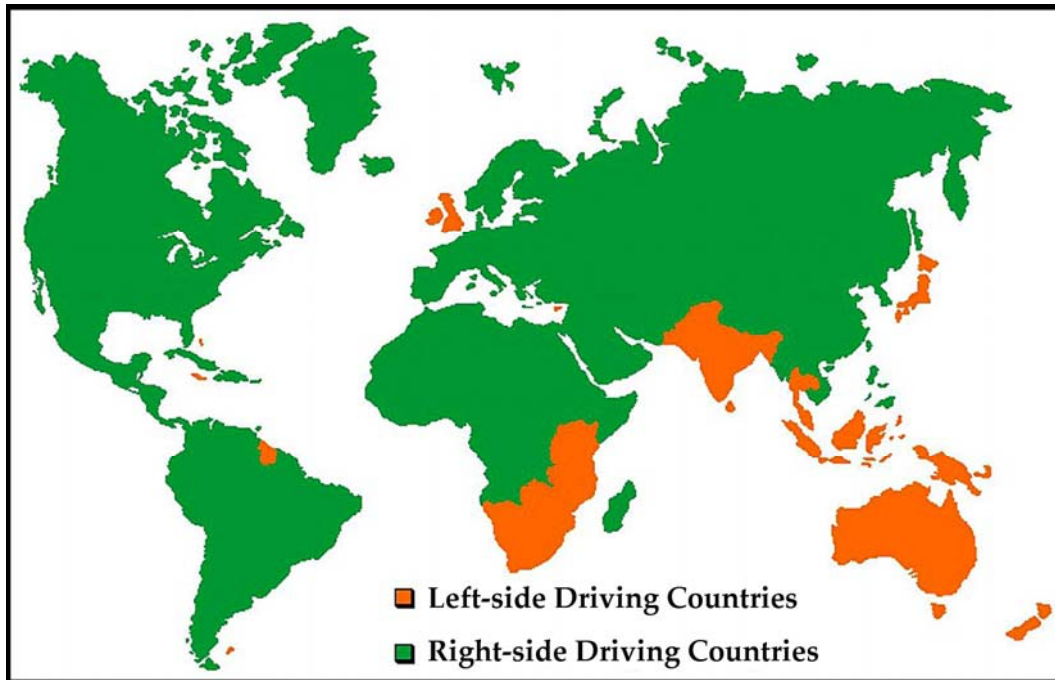
Defeating the Left-Side Driving Dilemma

An Outlandish Extra PDF

OutlandishScotland.com

A Novel Holiday Travel Guidebook

Outlandish Scotland Journey Defeating the Left-Side Driving Dilemma



There is no such thing as a UK rental car option that will alleviate the fact that:

Travelers who live in right-side driving countries (the majority of the world) *will* experience episodes of anxiety and confusion when having to drive on the left side of the road in the UK. It's unavoidable.

CD Miller (A Novel Holiday author and US citizen) reports:

"On *every* morning of *every* day, during *every* trip when I've driven a car in the UK, I suffered a panic attack as soon as I slipped behind the wheel. The only way to get past the panic was to chant, 'Drive on the **Left Side** ... Turn to the **Left Side**,' over and over, until I calmed down enough to confidently set out.

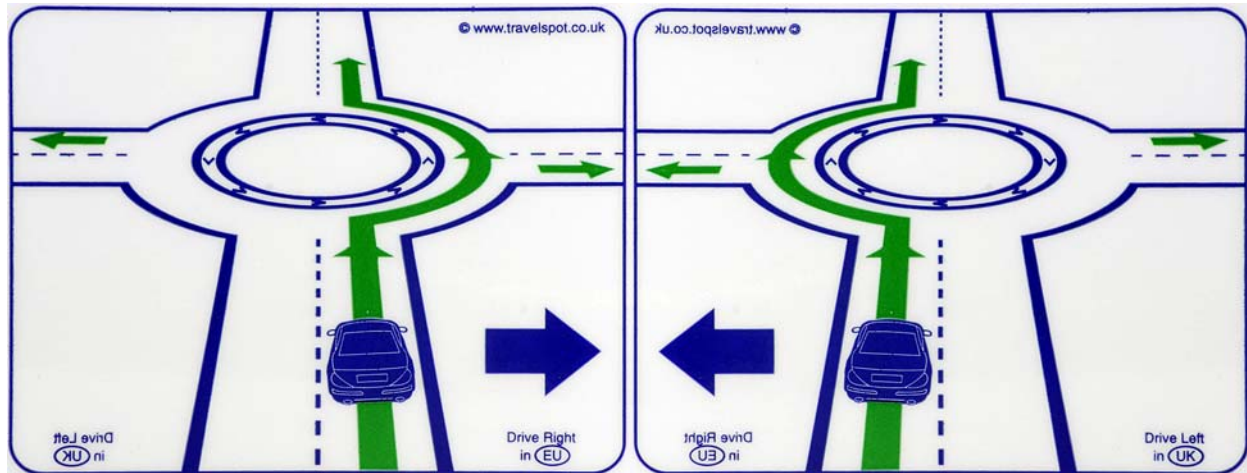
"Some days I'd have afternoon and evening panic attacks as well. Happily, my magic mantra worked then, as well.

"What was totally unexpected: if I drove in the UK for longer than a week, I suffered similar panic attacks for a few days after arriving back home! Sitting in my own car chanting, 'Drive on the **Right Side** ... Turn to the **Right Side**,' felt ridiculous. But, better silly than sorry."

If you worry that Miller's magic mantra for UK driving won't work for you, there are three additional things you can do—before embarking upon your UK holiday—to minimize the anxiety you'll suffer.

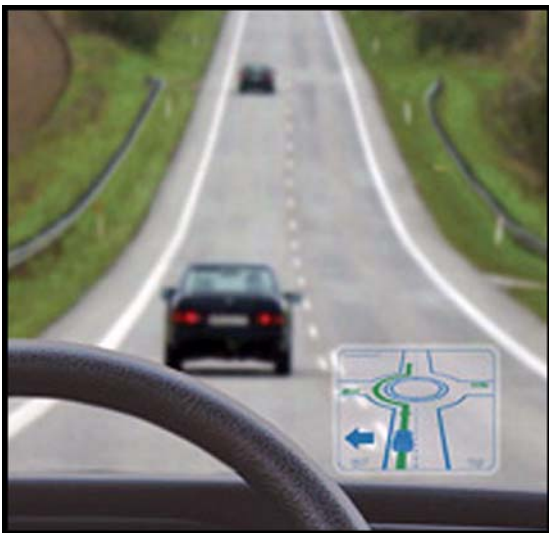
- 1 Rent an automatic transmission car for touring the UK, even though it will be more expensive than renting a manual (standard) transmission car.
[See our **UK Car Rental & Driving Tips** PDF for more info.]
- 2 Consider buying the marvelous Left-Side Driving safety sticker available online. [Next page.]
- 3 *Before* embarking upon your UK holiday, read everything you can about left-side driving techniques and tips for reducing stress and anxiety when driving in the UK.
[Links found at the end of this PDF.]

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The DriveRight Lane Safety Device

Originally designed to assist UK drivers when traveling in Europe—drivers accustomed to driving on the left side of the road, who suddenly have to drive on the right side of the road (pic above, left), **the sticker is reversible**, and will assist those used to driving on the right side of the road when driving in the UK! (Pic above, right.)



From the DriveRight Manufacturer's Website:

- Neat, transparent sticker that gives you a natural 'sat-nav' view of the road ahead and shows you instantly which side of the road you should be driving on.
- Easily reverses as a reminder to drive on the LEFT when returning to the UK. [Pic at left.]
- Adheres neatly to windscreen without messy adhesive and is re-usable, time and time again.
- It is also an ideal safety device for visitors [accustomed to driving on the right side of the road when operating a rental car in the UK].

UK and European drivers can purchase the DriveRight sticker from a number of websites, including:

- <http://www.travelspot.co.uk/product-driveright.html> (The manufacturer.)
- <http://www.halfords.com/motoring/travel-accessories/travel-equipment/driveright-lane-safety-device>
- <http://unipartautostore.com/brookstone-drive-right-lane-stickers.html>
- <http://www.amazon.co.uk/Driveright-Safety-Sticker-For-Travelling/dp/B003GU6I2K>
(Please Note: Amazon.co.uk charges more than the sites listed above.)

Australians and New Zealanders can find the DriveRight sticker on the following websites:

- <http://www.fishpond.com.au/Toys/Driveright-Lane-Safety-Sticker-For-Travelling-Abroad-Travel-Spot/5023808928906>

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- <http://www.fishpond.co.nz/Toys/Driveright-Lane-Safety-Sticker-For-Travelling-Abroad-Travel-Spot/5023808928906>

Unfortunately, the DriveRight sticker doesn't seem to be offered on any US or Canadian websites—including the US and Canadian Amazon.com websites. Happily, all non-UK/European residents can personally contact **TravelSpot** (the sticker's manufacturer [link above]) to arrange for international purchase and delivery.

“All deliveries outside of the UK and Europe can be made by prior agreement and will be charged [delivery fees] at cost—Please contact one of our Sales Team Members.”

<http://www.travelspot.co.uk/terms.html#del>

<http://www.travelspot.co.uk/contact.html>

Because there may be an extended delivery time for stickers sent to non-UK/European residents, be sure to place your order well in advance of your trip.



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Read Other Internet-posted Left-Side Driving Resources

Below are a few links to Internet articles helpful to travelers who live in right-side driving countries who are preparing to drive in the UK, with some point highlights. The more you read before arriving, the more comfortable you'll be when driving in the UK.

How to Adjust to Driving a Car on the Left Side of the Road

<http://www.wikihow.com/Adjust-to-Driving-a-Car-on-the-Left-Side-of-the-Road>

- Remember to keep to the left side of the road when driving. **Possibly this is the hardest when the road is quiet and empty.** When other cars are on the road, it's fairly obvious where you should be driving but your mind can easily wander when you're tired or not concentrating, making you vulnerable to driving by habit on the right side. Be conscious, be alert, and **don't drive tired.**

5 Tips for Driving on the Left Side of the Road

<http://blog.esurance.com/5-tips-for-driving-on-the-left-side-of-the-road/#.Vu72yzEYID1>

- **Cities are not your friend**

It's a universal fact that [large UK] cities can be intimidating, especially if you are [unused to] driving on the left side of the road, so sometimes it's best to just avoid driving there altogether if you can. Park the car and take public transportation.

7 Tips for How to Drive on the Left Side of the Road

<http://www.changesinlongitude.com/tips-to-drive-on-the-left-side-of-the-road/>

- **Do you get my drift?**

If you are traveling with a companion, enlist their help to make sure you are not drifting over the center line of the road. That can happen a bit at first. Driving on the left is harder for the front seat passenger as they continually press the phantom brake pedal that they don't have.

How to Drive on the Left Side of the Road

<http://www.stylehiclub.com/tips-general-travel/drive-on-the-left-side/>

- While most of the world drives on the right side of the road, there are many popular destinations that like to switch things up by driving on the left. ... My first encounter with this was in Ireland and then later when I studied abroad in London. I never drove in either of these places, so the only difference I had to get used to was **looking in the opposite direction when crossing the road**. I'm assuming this must be a problem for pedestrians in all countries that drive on the left, as the road is literally painted with instructions to "LOOK RIGHT" at every crossing.
- **Mistakes are most likely when pulling onto the road.** Whether you've just picked up your car rental or you've stopped for lunch along your drive, be especially careful when pulling into traffic. If you're making a right out of a parking lot, it's surely your habit to look left and pull into the right-most lane. Now when making a right, you have to **look right, then left, then cross a lane of oncoming cars** [to make a right turn]. Take a moment to think before you merge into the road. In fact, take a few moments.

Bottom Line

If you take the time to adequately prepare yourself for driving in the UK before setting out—and pay extra to rent an automatic transmission car—you'll be absolutely fine when driving on the left side while in the UK!

As aptly stated by Rick Steves, America's leading authority on European travel:

"Horror stories about driving overseas are fun to tell, but driving in the British Isles is really only a problem for those who make it one. The most dangerous creature on the road is the panicked tourist. Drive defensively, observe, fit in, avoid big-city driving when you can, and wear your seat belt."

<http://www.ricksteves.com/tms/article.cfm?id=180&extras=false>