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settlements

TIPS FOR DRIVERS FROM THE UK

1. You can drive on your UK licence for up to 3 months but should apply (if you can) for an Australian one as soon as possible to avoid potential problems. Applying for other things such as car insurance is easier if you have an Australian licence number to quote. Applying for a driver's licence is simple if you have a UK one. It involves taking your passport to a Service Centre (listed in the Phone Book), completing a form, having your photo taken and paying the appropriate fee depending on how many years you want your licence to cover. Your photollicence may be prepared there and then or you may be given a temporary licence while your photollicence is prepared and sent to you through the post.
2. While driving in South Australia is similar to the UK in some respects (on the same side of the road) there are some important differences.
3. The speed limit and road signs are in kilometres: a rough guide is that 60kph is approximately 40mph and 90kph is approximately 60mph.
4. If there are no signs to the contrary, then you must assume that the speed limit is 50kph or 33mph. Around school entrances and active roadworks there are special speed limits which are clearly displayed. These are rigidly enforced and you should be careful to keep to them.
5. Most Adelaide drivers keep to the speed limit and many suburban traffic lights have red light/speed cameras. Police also regularly set up temporary speed cameras and the locations of these are usually posted in the newspapers or on local news.
6. There are a lot of traffic lights in Adelaide and these are often 4 way lights so expect a long wait. There are right turn filters on main junctions and turning left is usually ok with caution (i.e. watch the sequence of the lights and only pull out when no traffic is coming your way)
7. When you turn left at lights look out for pedestrians – **they have priority** and you have to give way to them!
8. Roads tend to be wider than in the UK, most having at least three lanes. Often the left lane has to turn left at lights and the right has to turn right, so staying in the middle lane is a good plan if you aren't sure where you are going.
9. Don't expect anyone to give way or call you out if you get in the wrong lane or are waiting at a junction. South Australians just don't do this. If you are called forward it will probably be by an ex-UK driver; be careful because other drivers will not understand what you are doing!
10. Similarly, be careful when following a slow moving vehicle – it is likely that no-one will give way to enable you to pull out to pass it, and if you look like you are about to, don't be surprised if drivers speed up to prevent you from doing so (or hoot you if you do). Don't ask me why, they just do!
11. Beware of **P-platers** – these are newly qualified drivers and will try to rip you off at traffic lights and will usually be the only drivers who are exceeding the speed limit!
12. Using a mobile phone while driving is illegal in Australia, as in the UK. The difference here is that there are far more police patrol cars and motorcycles on the roads so you are more likely to get caught. Penalties are severe so just **don't do it**.

13. Parking around Adelaide city centre is plentiful both on the roadside and in multi-storey car parks. As with anywhere else, the nearer you are to the city centre the more you will pay. Most multi-storey car parks have pay on foot systems where you need to pay before returning to your car. Expect to pay at least \$6 for 2 hours.
14. Parking on the road side is acceptable except where there are obvious road markings or traffic signs to the contrary. You should **always** park in the direction of the traffic flow in Australia. In the city and busy suburbs, especially around shopping streets, parking is usually limited to slots of 4hrs, 2hrs, 1hr or even 15 minutes. Look for a sign that has a large **P** on it and this will tell you the maximum time you can leave your car there. If the sign says **Ticket** underneath the P then you have to pay and display a ticket from a nearby machine.
15. Public transport is a good alternative for getting in and out of the city. Buses are clean, comfortable and relatively cheap. Buy a multitrip ticket from any place with the Metroticket flag outside and pop it in the machine when you board the bus. The ticket covers the tram to Glenelg too. A 'single trip' is any use of the ticket with a two hour window so you can get several trips for the price of one if you use it wisely.

You won't feel like a fish out of water!

