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LANDFALL GUIDE · EVERYDAY LIFE

Can I drive in the UK on my US driver's license?

THE SHORT ANSWER

Yes, for up to 12 months after you become resident. After that you need a UK license. US licenses can't be swapped for UK ones, so most Americans need to pass the UK theory and practical tests.

For US citizens and green card holders moving to the UK. Build your free, personal move plan at **yourlandfall.com/plan**.

General information, not personal tax, financial, legal or immigration advice.

The 12-month rule

You can drive in the UK on a valid US driver's license for **up to 12 months** from when you become resident. After that, you need a UK license.

Getting a UK license

US licenses can't be exchanged for UK ones, so the usual route is:

1. Apply for a **provisional license**.
2. Pass the **theory test**, which includes a hazard perception section.
3. Pass the **practical driving test**.

Test slots can be booked up weeks or months ahead in busy areas, so start early in your first year.

Things that surprise Americans

- **Manual (stick shift) is common.** If you take your test in an automatic car, your license only covers automatics.
- **Roundabouts everywhere**, and driving on the left.
- **Insurance can cost more** at first, because UK insurers can't see your driving history. Some will take US driving records into account if you ask.

What to do next

Build your move plan to see driving alongside your other first-year steps.

See every step for your move. Answer five questions and get a free plan in the right order: yourlandfall.com/plan