

The safest and most dangerous countries to drive in for European travellers

- **Romania is the most dangerous European country to drive in, based on 2022 statistics.**
- **Serbia and Bulgaria take second and third, respectively**
- **Norway ranks as the safest country to drive in**

New research has revealed the most dangerous European countries to drive in, with Romania coming out on top.

The study by [Vignettestwitzerland.com](https://www.vignettestwitzerland.com) analysed the latest data from the European Transport Safety Council to see which countries had the highest road deaths per million inhabitants.

It found that Romania is statistically the most dangerous country to drive in in Europe. 2022 shows that the country had 85.81 deaths per million inhabitants, the highest of any country in the study. However, this is a 10.26% drop from 2012, which saw 95.62 deaths per million inhabitants.

Serbia comes second on the list, with the south-eastern European country coming in with 82.65 road deaths per million inhabitants. Compared to 2012 data, this is a drop of 13.01% from when the country had 95.01 road deaths per million inhabitants.

Coming in third place is the Balkan nation Bulgaria, which comes in with 77.64 road deaths per million inhabitants. It has the most minor change in road deaths out of the top ten, only seeing a drop of 6.02% since 2012, with 82.62 road deaths per million inhabitants.

Croatia takes fourth place on the list, with 71.20 road deaths per million inhabitants in the 2022 data. This is a 22.53% drop from 2012 when the country had 91.91 road deaths per million inhabitants.

Rounding out the top five is Portugal, which comes in with 62.30 road deaths per million inhabitants. This is an 8.53% drop from the 2012 data, which had 68.11 road deaths per million inhabitants.

The most dangerous European countries to drive in

Rank	Country	Road deaths per mln inhabitants (2012)	Road deaths per mln inhabitants (2022)	Percentage change 2012-2022
1	Romania	95.62	85.81	-10.26%
2	Serbia	95.01	82.65	-13.01%
3	Bulgaria	82.62	77.64	-6.02%
4	Croatia	91.91	71.20	-22.53%
5	Portugal	68.11	62.30	-8.53%
6	Greece	87.51	60.71	-30.63%
7	Latvia	86.69	60.24	-30.51%
8	Luxembourg	64.78	55.78	-13.89%
9	Hungary	60.76	55.22	-9.12%
10	Italy	61.71	53.70	-12.97%

The study also found that Norway is statistically the safest country to drive in in Europe. 2022 shows that the country only had 21.38 deaths per million inhabitants, the lowest of any European country. Compared to 2012 data, this is a 26.48% drop from across the decade, with 2012 having 29.08 deaths per million inhabitants.

Sweden comes second on the list of safest countries, with just 21.72 road deaths per million inhabitants. Compared to 2012 data, this is a drop of 27.74% from when the country had 30.05 road deaths per million inhabitants.

Coming in third place is the United Kingdom, which comes in with 25.89 road deaths per million inhabitants. The change in road deaths is less significant than other entries on the list, with a drop of just 9.51% from 2012, where road deaths sat at 28.61 per million inhabitants.

Denmark takes fourth place, with 26.22 road deaths per million inhabitants in the 2022 data. This is a 12.38% drop from 2012 when the country had 29.93 road deaths per million inhabitants.

Rounding out the top five is Switzerland, which comes in with 27.58 road deaths per million inhabitants. This is a 35.29% drop from the 2012 data, the most of the top ten safest countries, with 42.62 road deaths per million inhabitants.

The safest European countries to drive in

Rank	Country	Road deaths per mln inhabitants (2012)	Road deaths per mln inhabitants (2022)	Percentage change
1	Norway	29.08	21.38	
2	Sweden	30.05	21.72	
3	United Kingdom	28.61	25.89	
4	Denmark	29.93	26.22	
5	Switzerland	42.62	27.58	
6	Republic of Ireland	35.57	30.83	
7	Germany	44.00	33.35	
8	Finland	47.21	34.43	
9	Israel	37.82	36.61	
10	Spain	41.19	37.08	

Commenting on the findings, M. E. Wijnmalen, CEO of Vignetteswitzerland.com, said: "With how connected Europe is, and how easy it is to travel from one country into another, it's important to keep knowledge of the driving conditions in each country you travel to. Many factors can affect these conditions, such as road quality, driving laws or even changes in speed limits that can influence the risk you run of simply just being on the road."

ENDS

Source: European Transport Safety Council, national road death statistics provided by the PIN panellists for each country, completed with Eurostat for population data

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8	Luxembourg	64.78	55.78	-13.89%
9	Hungary	60.76	55.22	-9.12%

10	Italy	61.71	53.70	-12.97%
11	Poland	92.66	50.35	-45.66%
12	Czech Republic	70.63	50.11	-29.05%
13	Malta	21.56	49.91	131.52%
14	France	57.61	48.05	-16.59%
15	Slovakia	54.77	44.90	-18.03%
16	Belarus	74.54	44.85	-39.84%
17	Lithuania	100.41	42.77	-57.41%
18	Netherlands	38.85	41.90	7.84%
19	Austria	62.89	41.21	-34.48%
20	Cyprus	59.16	40.90	-30.87%
21	Slovenia	63.25	40.34	-36.22%
22	Estonia	64.94	37.54	-42.19%
23	Spain	41.19	37.08	-9.98%
24	Israel	37.82	36.61	-3.18%
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