

The strangest laws from around the world



When people travel around the world, it is always a good idea to do some research on local laws and traditions. This will keep you out of trouble and you'll enjoy your vacation in a safer way.

However, there are some weird and particular rules that surely nobody is expected to follow when you visit certain places.

1. In Victoria, Australia, only a qualified electrician is allowed to change a light bulb.

It's illegal to change a light bulb in Australia's second most populated state, unless you're a licensed electrician. Apparently, rebels who don't obey this law could receive a fine of up to AU\$10 (£5.50).

2. In Milan, citizens must smile at all times, by law.

In Milan, Italy it is a legal requirement to smile at all times, except during funerals or hospital visits. Frowners could face a hefty fine.

3. In Canada, by law, one out of every five songs on the radio must be sung by a Canadian.

The CRTC (Canadian Radio and Television Commission), states that for all types of programming there, at least a fifth per cent has to be sung or played by Canadian performers. Great for Justin Bieber fans, but not so great for the sane!

4. In Switzerland, it is illegal to flush the toilet after 10pm.

The Government considers that it noise pollution to flush the loo after 10 pm in an apartment building, so this action is illegal in Switzerland.

5. Running out of petrol is illegal on Germany's autobahn, and so is walking along it.

So if your car breaks down, you must pull over and use your horn to attract attention. The penalty is €80 (£65) for endangering other drivers there.

6. To be fat in Japan is forbidden.

Japanese sumo wrestlers are fat, aren't they? But still, it is illegal to be fat there. According to the "Metabo law", every men and women aged 40 and over, must not have a waist measuring over than 32 inches and 36 inches respectively. For individuals, there is no an authentic penalty or punishment in law. This measure is aimed at putting pressure on local governments and companies to promote healthier lifestyles.

7. Chewing gum is illegal in Singapore.

Have you ever thought that chewing gum may send you to jail? Yes, It's happened before! Chewing gum is an illegal action in Singapore since 1992. Importing chewing gum into Singapore is banned and under this rule, only nicotine gum is allowed, but even then, someone can get it from a doctor only with a prescription. Nobody is allowed to buy or sell gum inside Singapore and there is a \$500 fine for spitting gum on the streets or parks.