

# THE MICHELIN WEBSITE

<http://www.viamichelin.com>

We have found the Michelin web site a useful and versatile resource when preparing for a road trip to the UK. Route planning is as straightforward or as complex as you wish to make it. Maps and directions are clear and simple; there's information about places to stay, places of interest along the route and much more.

## Route Planning

We have found the best way to plan is first, if necessary, to get the UK part of the route, e.g. Birmingham to Dover. Next, choose Calais to, say, Ancona via Milan and finally your Greek port of choice - most people use Patra - to Piraeus for the ferry to Crete.

On the Michelin site start with "Driving directions" (in the centre of the page). If you're including the UK section of your journey enter your post code. If going to Dover enter "The Fan" in the address line as this will give directions to the ferry port rather than Dover town centre.

Click "Options" then, if required, "Stopovers" and enter details.

Next select the route type you want, your preferences and settings.

A quick look at the route details will reveal that useful stuff - like road works and speed camera locations - is included along with the basics.

Print out the route and, if you wish, start again with shorter sections to get more detailed, larger scale maps. Clicking on maps will enlarge them and you can click and drag to the next section. All are printable.

Now move on to the continental section, starting at your continental arrival point, in this example, Calais.

Once again select the whole route, Calais to Ancona, with stopovers if required, and break it down into shorter sections. [As estimated timings are included with the route details we decide for how long we're prepared to drive and plan accordingly. We dawdle and never drive more than about four and a half hours daily]. Michelin quickest route, mostly on motorways, from Calais to Ancona is estimated at 14hrs. 6mins (excluding rest stops) to cover 1540 Km (957 miles), an easy two days, especially if driving is shared.

The Greek section from Patra (sometimes called Patras) to Piraeus is straightforward but you need to be a bit creative with spelling. Enter Pireas or Piraeus and you'll be offered three options. Select the third, "GR - Attiki: Peiraias (Le Piree) which will give a route right to the ferry port.

The site offers many options, e.g. you can create "My Michelin" and save details of hotels, places of interest etc., for future reference.

You'll quickly become accustomed to the michelin site which we find very easy to use.

Some people find it easier for the continental part of the route to select kilometres rather than miles as that's what all the road signs display. Others prefer to stick with miles as that's what's familiar.

Many cars have a digital display that can be changed and we prefer, changing the settings to Miles/MPH whilst in the UK and back to Km/KPH as soon as we cross the Channel. It's then easy to know what distances have been covered or whether you're observing speed limits without needing to do mental arithmetic. Just choose the relevant options in the route planner.