

Dealing With A Vehicle Breakdown And Vehicle Recovery

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In some parts of the world a serious vehicle breakdown can easily turn into a life changing experience but here in Portugal, it's nothing more than a minor inconvenience & the first thing you must do is immediately put on the yellow reflective waistcoat that the law says you must have in your car & then deploy the reflective triangle about 30 metres behind your vehicle to warn approaching traffic of your parked vehicle.

Assuming you can't fix the vehicle yourself you then look on the back of the insurance sticker on your windscreen & dial the assistance number & tell them you have broken down & need a recovery vehicle to assist you & at that point, you'll need to give them your location & having a Tom Tom or similar or a smartphone loaded with a program such as or <https://wego.here.com> <https://what3words.com/else.outline.exists> or the 'drop a pin' function on Apple or Google maps or similar will be of immense help you to in giving them your exact location & you might also like to read 'How To Beat The Language Barrier And Other Top Tech Tips' in the files section of this group as it might give you further help on those issues.

Most but not quite all car insurance policies will offer this vehicle recovery as a free service included in your insurance & furthermore, most will also give you a free hire car for a limited time whilst your own vehicle is in the garage being repaired.

There are other options as well and one of the best, if not the very best is the Automevel Club De Portugal aka ACP at www.acp.pt who offer free vehicle recovery, home start & a number of other benefits to it's members. They also have a separate classic vehicle membership that gives additional benefits to it's members & you'll find full details of those on their respective websites at www.acp.pt/inicio & <https://www.acp.pt/ser-socio/classicos>.

To give you an idea of how good the service from ACP & ACP Classicos is, I had a serious breakdown on my classic car last year & called ACP & explained the problem & that as it's the only car of it's type in the whole of Portugal & the Islands there was only one garage in the country that was capable of fixing it so the car need to be taken 200km & more than 2 hours drive.

I was expecting to be told I'd be hit with an expensive recovery bill but before I could even offer to pay, the lady on the other end of the phone simply said that's fine Mr Robinson. We'll have a recovery vehicle to you in less than an hour & as we have a strict policy of never refusing a classic car recovery, it won't cost you a cent..... And she was absolutely true to her word.

Cost of ACP membership is about €100 & ACP Classicos is an additional €60 at the time of writing so in my case, it's money very well spent & I'd highly recommend people join ACP as a matter of course.