Organized Traffic: What is It and How is It Applied?

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When motorists and pedestrians abide by a set of respectful rules concerning right of way, meaning that one person will use the roadway while another waits his turn, this is evidence of organized traffic. In the majority of the world, organized traffic is a means of keeping the roadways and those individuals using those roadways safe. However, the use of this model also helps to decrease instances of traffic congestion and avert potential accidents.

What Are the Signs of Organized Traffic?

In most areas where organized traffic is in place, motorists and pedestrians alike will see road markings that clearly define the traffic lanes, crosswalks, signals and signs. Each of these measures plays an integral role in organizing the flow of traffic.

Clearly marked lanes, for instance, keep drivers from using more of the road than necessary, thus freeing up additional lanes for traffic to flow more smoothly. Signs help to route motorists and pedestrians to their intended destinations and traffic signals at intersections ensure that vehicles at any point of the intersection will be able to safely cross it.

The same is true for pedestrians, as more and more people choose to commute to work or stores by foot in areas that are largely congested. Look at New York City or Chicago. These cities have a high number of pedestrians due to the heavy traffic and potential for delays due to that traffic. In areas with a large number of pedestrians, crosswalks can often be found at nearly every intersection and should be watched closely by motorists.

Are Organized Traffic Measures Similar Worldwide?

Although many countries have adopted organized traffic models, not all countries use the same signs or signals to indicate when to stop, when to go, when to yield, etc. The Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals is making an attempt to push all countries using methods of organized traffic to adopt some form of uniformity so that expatriates, tourists and drivers new and old can recognize the markings, signs and signals and abide by them regardless of where they are in the world.

Depending upon the location, when no markings, signs or signals are present, a different set of rules may apply. Tourists should always perform their due diligence prior to driving in unfamiliar areas to ensure that they are prepared and aware of the laws governing motorists in these areas. In most instances, motorists should keep to the correct side of the road and pay close attention to any intersections.

Turning in Organized Traffic

It is very rare that a driver actually has a straight drive from one point to another. For this reason, the blinkers are used to signal to others using the roadway that the vehicle is intending to turn. In instances where drivers are turning across oncoming traffic lanes, motorists wishing to turn have to stop prior to turning to wait for any oncoming traffic to pass. Many cities have dedicated lanes for those needing to turn, so as not to slow any following motorists. Turning rules also vary worldwide, so it should be inquired about in any countries that you are traveling within.

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