

# Poland (Central Europe)

## Touring tips



The following is additional to our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

### Driving licence

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle (over 125cc).
- All valid UK driving licenses should be accepted in Poland.

### Motor Insurance

You must at least have third-party cover.

### Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available but 95 octane petrol with lead replacement additive is.
- You may carry up to 10 litres of petrol in a can but must not do so on a ferry.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but you should check with your card issuer for usage in Poland before travel.

### Speed limits

(Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers)

- Some residential zones 13mph (20km/h)
- Built-up areas 37 mph (60 km/h) at night (11pm to 5am) and 31 mph (50 km/h) during the day (5am to 11pm)
- Outside built-up areas 55mph (90 km/h)
- Express roads 62 mph (100 km/h)
- Dual carriageways 74 mph (120 km/h)
- Motorways 86 mph (140 km/h) (minimum 24 mph (40 km/h))

### Seat belts

Front and rear seat occupants must wear seat belts if fitted.

### Passengers/children in cars

- Children under 12 years old and under 1.5m tall cannot travel as a front or rear seat passenger unless using an appropriate child restraint.
- You must not use a rear-facing child restraint in a front seat with an active passenger airbag.

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### Lights

You must use dipped headlights or daytime running lights at all times and could be fined for not doing so.

### Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights or daytime running lights at all times.
- Riders must wear a crash helmet.

### Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 20 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.
- Penalties are severe. Between 21 and 50 milligrams a heavy fine will be imposed and your licence suspended. Over 50 milligrams and a tribunal will determine the fine and a prison sentence as well as suspension of your licence.

### Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be imposed and you should obtain an official receipt.
- The Police can ask foreign drivers to pay their fines in cash.
- If the fine is not paid on-the-spot the case can be brought to court and must then be paid within three days. The court will confiscate your passport until the fine is paid and will impose a 30 day prison sentence if the fine is not paid within the 3 days.
- Wheel clamps are in use.
- If you park illegally and your vehicle is causing an obstruction it may be towed away and impounded.

### You must carry the following in Poland

- **Warning triangle** (all vehicles with more than two wheels)
- **[Electronic toll box](#)** – for vehicles or vehicle combinations including car and caravan over 3.5tonnes. Vehicles have to be equipped with an electronic device, called a [viaBOX](#). Tolls vary according to the type of road, the distance travelled and the emissions category of the vehicle.
- **Fire extinguisher**

### Other rules/requirements in Poland

We recommended that you carry a first aid kit and a set of replacement bulbs.

We also recommended that you equip your vehicle with M+S tyres.

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If you are walking on the side of a road outside a built-up area at night or when visibility is reduced you must wear a reflective jacket. (There is no specific legislation for motorists at present but the subject is being discussed.)

You must not use spiked tyres.

You may use snow chains but only on roads covered with snow.

You must not carry or use a radar detector.

You must not use your horn in built-up areas except to avoid an accident.

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[Travel insurance »](#)

[Travel money »](#)

[Atlases and guides »](#)

[General advice - driving abroad »](#)

[European low emission zones »](#)

[European tolls »](#)

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