

Touring Tips

LATVIA (Eastern Europe)



This information should be read in conjunction with our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Drinking and driving: The maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream for drivers with more than 2 years experience is 0.05 per cent. For drivers with less than 2 years experience the maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent. Penalties are severe if the levels are exceeded.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (over 125cc) is 18.

Fines: The police can only collect fines on the spot for parking offences. Police control speeds closely and gives fines for even the smallest of speeding offences.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol, petrol with lead substitute available. Petrol in a can permitted (duty payable). Visa and MasterCard accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Latvia before travel. Cash payments only accepted in local currency.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor Insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/Children in cars: Children less than 1.5m in height must use a restraint system appropriate to size and weight or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h), dual carriageways 68 mph (110 km/h). There are no motorways in Latvia. In residential areas the speed limit is 20km/h.

Compulsory equipment:

- **First aid kit**
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Winter tyres** - compulsory from 1 December until the 1 March.

Other rules/requirements:

Spiked tyres are prohibited 1 May until the 1 October.

It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

Note: Latvia has very little signposting and road markings.

The use of equipment which interferes with police equipment is prohibited.

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