

Netherlands (Western Europe)



Touring tips

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

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is over 0.05 per cent, severe penalties include fine, withdrawal of driving licence and imprisonment. The lower limit of 0.02 per cent applies to new drivers for the first five years and moped riders up to the age of 24. In some cases a blood test will be necessary after a breath test.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car and/or motorcycle 18.

Fines: On-the-spot. In the case of illegal parking, the police can impose and collect on-the-spot fines or tow the vehicle away. Vehicles can be confiscated in cases of heavy excess of speed and drink driving.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG (Autogas) are available. No leaded petrol (lead substitute petrol available as 'super' 98 octane). Petrol in a can permitted but it is forbidden aboard ferries. Credit cards accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for use in the Netherlands before travel.

Lights: The use of dipped headlights during the day is recommended. At night it is prohibited to drive with only sidelights.

Motorcycles: The use of dipped headlights during the day is recommended. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for all motorcycles which are capable of exceeding 25 km/h this is also applicable to drivers and passengers of open micro cars without seatbelts.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: Children up to the age of 18 and less than 1.35m in height cannot travel as a front or rear seat passenger unless using a suitable restraint system adapted to their size. Suitable child restraint systems must meet the safety approval of ECE 44/03 or 44/04. If the vehicle is not fitted with rear seat belts children under 3 are not permitted to travel in the vehicle. Children under 3 are permitted to travel in the front seats if using a rear facing child seat with the airbag deactivated (if fitted). If the vehicle's front seats are not fitted with seat belts, only passengers measuring 1.35m or more may travel in the front seat.

Seat belts: Compulsory for front and 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 49 mph (80 km/h) or 62 mph (100 km/h) and motorways 74 mph (120 km/h). Only vehicles capable of 37 mph (60 km/h) are permitted on motorways.

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Compulsory equipment in the Netherlands:

n/a

Other rules/requirements in the Netherlands:

Warning triangle or hazard warning lights must be used in case of accident or breakdown (recommended that warning triangle always be carried).

Buses have right of way when leaving bus stops in built-up areas.

Trams have right of way except when crossing a priority road. Beware of large numbers of cyclists and skaters.

Spiked tyres are prohibited.

The use of a radar detector is prohibited, if a person is caught using such a device by the police the radar detector will be confiscated and you will be fined €250.

Horns should not be used at night and only used in moderation during the day. High penalties are incurred for none compliance.

Parking discs can be obtained from local stores.

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