

Czech Republic (Central Europe)



Touring tips

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

Drinking and driving: Strictly forbidden. Nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood. Fine between 25,000 and 50,000 Czech crown (CZK) and withdrawal of the driving licence for up to two years. Frequent random testing takes place, police can also test for drugs by testing saliva.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is considered a criminal offence.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle up to 125cc 17, over 125cc (max 25kW) 18 years.

Photo card licences are accepted - licences that do not incorporate a photo must be accompanied by an [International Driving Permit](#).

Fines: On-the-spot up to 5,000 CZK, maximum fine for traffic offence 100,000 CZK. An official receipt should be obtained.

The police are empowered to retain the driving licence if a serious traffic offence has been committed. Illegally parked vehicles may be clamped or towed away.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol 'natural' (95 and 98 octane), diesel (nafta) and LPG (autoplyn or plyn) available. Up to 10 litres of petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Czech Republic before travel.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights / daytime running lights during the day compulsory throughout the year. Fine for non-compliance: approximately 2,000 CZK.

Any vehicle warning lights, other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory throughout the year. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for driver and passenger of motorcycles and mopeds. It is forbidden for motorcyclists to smoke while riding their machine.

Motor insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/children in cars: All passengers must use seat belts. Children with a weight under 36kg and under 150cm in height are not permitted to travel in a vehicle unless using a suitable restraint system, adapted to their size and weight.

A child seated in the front seats of a vehicle using a suitable child restraint system where the airbag is activated must travel facing forward.

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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 55 mph (90 km/h) and motorways (for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg and buses) 80 mph (130 km/h).

On expressways that pass through built up areas 50mph (80 km/h).

Maximum speed with snow chains 31 mph (50km/h).

At railway crossings drivers must not exceed 18 mph (30 km/h) for 50m before the crossing. The arrival of a train is indicated by red flashing lights / red or yellow flag.

Vehicles that are constructed with a maximum speed of 49mph (80 km/h) or under are not permitted to travel on motorways.

Compulsory equipment in Czech Republic:

- **First-aid kit**
- **A set of replacement bulbs**
- **A set of replacement fuses**
- **Warning triangle** - not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **Reflective jacket** – EU standard EN471. The driver of a vehicle with 2 or more axles must carry a reflective waistcoat, it has to be worn in the event of a breakdown or emergency outside a built up area, on all roads, expressways and motorways. It has to be worn when exiting the vehicle in such circumstances and therefore must be kept within the car (not in the boot). The waistcoat is recommended for car passengers and for riders of mopeds and motorcycles.
- **Winter equipment** - Winter tyres are compulsory from 1st November to the 31st March* on all wheels of passenger vehicles and must be marked M+S when there is compacted snow or ice on the road. They are also compulsory whenever the temperature is lower than 4 degrees Celsius and there is a possibility of snow or ice on the road. These regulations also apply during winter periods to roads where the below sign is placed, even if it is free of snow and ice. The minimum depth on winter tyres is 4 millimeters. As snow chains can only be used when roads are completely covered, we recommend that winter tyres are fitted.



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* This period may be extended dependant upon weather conditions.

Other rules/requirements in Czech Republic:

Motorway tax is payable for the use of motorways and express roads. A windscreen sticker must be displayed on all four-wheeled vehicles up to 3.5t as evidence of payment. The sticker must be displayed on the right hand side of the window. Stickers can be purchased at the Czech frontier, UAMK branch offices, petrol stations or post offices for periods of one year, one month or ten consecutive days. Fines imposed for non-display.

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering the Czech Republic. If any damage occurs inside the country a police report must be obtained at the scene of the accident. Damaged vehicles may only be taken out of the country on production of this evidence.

The use of an audible warning device is only permitted in built up areas to avoid imminent danger, they are prohibited between 2000hrs and 0600hrs, and in Prague.

The use of spiked tyres is prohibited.

A GPS based navigation system which has maps indicating the location of fixed speed cameras must have the 'fixed speed camera PoI (Points of Interest)' function deactivated. The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

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