

## Finland (Northern Europe)

### Touring tips



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

**Drinking and driving:** Breath tests and blood tests can be carried out at random. If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.05 per cent or more the driver will be penalised which could include a daily fine or imprisonment and withdrawal of driving licence.

The police test for alcohol and narcotics.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18, motorcycle (not exceeding 125cc) 16, (exceeding 125cc) 18.

Motorists banned from driving in an EU or EEA country are not permitted to drive in Finland.

**Fines:** Police may impose but not collect on-the-spot fines for parking and other minor infringements, up to €115. The fine is payable at a bank within two weeks.

Foreign drivers have the right to refuse to give information concerning their income, in which case, the fine will be standard.

For more serious offences there is a system of daily fines with a minimum of €6 per day. The police can remove an illegally parked vehicle, release fee up to €170. Wheel clamps are also in use.

**Fuel:** Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and Diesel is available but not LPG. 95 Octane is gradually being discontinued. Leaded petrol is not available.

Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for use in Finland before travel.

NOTE: A new type of fuel, the SP95-E10 (Lead Free 95 Octane containing 10% of Ethanol) is now being sold throughout Finland. This fuel is not suitable for use in all cars and you should check compatibility with your vehicle manufacturer before using it. If in doubt use the standard SP98 Octane unleaded fuel which continues to be available alongside the new fuel.

Up to 10 litres of petrol in a can permitted.

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**Lights:** All motor vehicles must use their headlights in and outside built up areas at all times throughout the year.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Drivers and passengers of mopeds or motorcycles must wear a crash helmet.

**Motor insurance:** Third-party insurance compulsory.

**Passengers/children in cars:** A child less than 1.35m travelling in a car, van or lorry must be seated in a child seat or child restraint.

A child under three years old may not be transported in a vehicle without a child restraint / seat, except in a taxi.

Where a child restraint/seat is not available, a child three years and over must travel in the rear seat of the vehicle using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat. It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all children under 15 are safely restrained.

All child restraints/seats will have to conform to the ECE standard 44/03 or EU directive 77/541EEC.

**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. Inside built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) or 62 mph (100 km/h), according to the quality of road, with 49 mph (80 km/h) being the upper limit where there are no signs, on motorways 74 mph (120km/h).

No minimum speed on motorways.

Temporary speed limits may be enforced on some or all roads by the local road districts. Reduced speed limits apply during the winter months, October to March generally 12 mph (20 km/h) less than standard limits.

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### Compulsory equipment in Finland:

- **Warning triangle**
- **Winter tyres** - marked M&S on the sidewall are compulsory between 1 December and the end of February. In practice snow tyres are necessary from November to April. The recommended minimum tread depth is 3 millimeters for winter tyres, but in difficult weather conditions it is 5 millimeters.
- **Reflective jacket** - Pedestrians must use reflectors in the hours of darkness (any type of reflector is accepted). A car driver / passenger who steps out of a vehicle becomes a pedestrian and therefore must have a reflector.

### Other rules/requirement in Finland:

Radar detectors are prohibited.

Spiked tyres may be used from the 1<sup>st</sup> November to the first Monday after Easter, if used they must be fitted on all wheels.

Snow chains may be used temporarily when required by conditions, drivers must be careful to avoid damage to the road surface.

Beware game (elk, reindeer, etc) as this constitutes a very real danger on some roads. Any incident involving an animal must be reported to the emergency services.

It is prohibited to sound a horn in towns and villages except in cases of immediate danger.

In some towns, the streets are cleaned on a regular basis. Road signs indicate to drivers on which day the cleaning takes place and therefore when the street must be kept clear of parked vehicles. When a car is found to obstruct the path of a cleaning vehicle, it is removed. In order to recover it the driver must pay a fee.

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