

Russian Federation (Eastern Europe)

Touring Tips



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

Drinking and driving: Maximum rate of alcohol in the blood for a driver is 0.03%. Driving under the influence of narcotics is strictly prohibited.

Driving licence: An International Driving Permit (IDP) is compulsory for the holder of any type of UK driving licence.

Minimum age at which a visitor may drive a temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle is 17.

Fines: On the spot. Fines should be paid through a bank according to the ticket given by the policeman. Police can clamp or remove illegally parked vehicles.

Fuel: Leaded petrol (may be in short supply and when available low octane). Unleaded petrol (95, 98 octane) is available, but advisable to keep tank topped up whenever possible.

Import of fuel in can not permitted but once there, it is recommended to carry spare fuel.

Diesel (Solyarka) and limited supplies of LPG are available.

Credit cards accepted at some filling stations but not widespread; check with your card issuer for usage in Russian Federation before travel.

Lights: The use of passing lights during the day is compulsory outside built up areas, fine imposed for non-compliance.

Motorcycles: Wearing of crash helmets compulsory when riding a scooter or motorcycle. Child under 12 not permitted as passenger. Motorcycles must use dipped headlights at all times.

Motor Insurance: Foreign motorists must take out short term insurance cover at the border. Third-party insurance compulsory, fully comprehensive insurance recommended.

Russia became a member of the Green Card insurance system on the 1st January 2009. Should a motorist wish to travel to Russia and use a green card, they must ensure the code RUS is included on the document.

Passengers/Children in cars: Children under 12 cannot travel as front seat passenger unless using restraint system appropriate to size.

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

Speed limits: The signs indicating speed limits must be strictly adhered to. Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 37 mph (60 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90km/h) but 68 mph (110 km/h) on expressways.

Motorists who have held a driving license for less than two years must not exceed 43 mph (70 km/h). In some residential zones 13mph (20km/h) as signposted.

Compulsory equipment in Russian Federation:

- **First aid kit**
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Spare bulb set**

Other rules/requirements in Russian Federation:

A road tax is payable at the frontier.

In addition to the original vehicle registration document it is recommended that an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles also be carried if visiting any Russian speaking areas.

State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates.

We recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicles such as a fan belt and spark plugs.

It is against the law to drive a dirty car.

Use of the horn in towns is prohibited.

It is forbidden to pick up hitchhikers.


Anti-radar equipment which interferes with specific radio frequencies to jam police signals is prohibited.

It is necessary to pre-plan itineraries and book accommodation before departure.

A visitor whose vehicle is involved in an accident or breakdown must contact the Militia, the police must always be called to the scene of an accident.

Motorists should avoid driving at night if possible.

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