

# Sweden (Northern 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 0.02 per cent or more severe penalties include fines, withdrawal of licence and / or prison. Random breath tests are carried out and drivers must always submit to a test if requested by the police.

**Driving licence:** Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18. NOTE UK driving licences, which do not incorporate a photograph, will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport. A foreign e.g. UK driving licence is not valid in Sweden, if you also have a valid or revoked Swedish driving licence.

**Fines:** Police can impose but not collect fines on the spot for minor traffic offences. Fines must be paid at a bank within 2-3 weeks. Illegally parked vehicles may be towed away and the release charge is up to 1,400 SEK.

**Fuel:** Unleaded - Blyfri (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel is available, very limited LPG availability. Petrol in a can permitted. Credit cards are accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Sweden before travel.

**Lights:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Fines will be imposed for inadequate lighting.

**Motorcycles:** Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory.

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

**Passengers/Children in cars:** Children aged under 15 or under 135cms must use an appropriate child restraint. There is only one exception in that they are permitted to travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available. A child aged 15 and over or 135cms in height may use an adult seat belt.

A child less than 140cm is permitted to travel in the front seat of any vehicle only if the passenger seat airbag is deactivated.

A rear facing baby seat may only be used if the air-bag has been deactivated. Children weighing up to 13kg must use a baby restraint facing backwards and can be placed on the front or back seats. It is only permitted to have the seat forward facing once the child weighs more than 18kg.

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

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**Speed limits:** Speed limits are no longer based on the type of road, but on the quality and safety of the actual road itself. Speed limits may subsequently vary along the same road. It is therefore recommended to pay particular attention to road signs. The lowest speed limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In built-up areas: 18 mph (30 km/h), outside built-up areas 43 mph (70 km/h), motorways 55 mph (90 km/h). Vehicles with trailers must never exceed 49mph (80 km/h). If in doubt, or if there is no speed limits indicated, drivers are advised to keep to 70km/h until you pass a speed limit sign.

## Compulsory equipment:

- **Winter tyres** - From the 1 December to 31 March, it is compulsory to use winter tyres (marked M&S) with a minimum tread depth of 3mm in winter road conditions. This period varies according to weather conditions. Winter road conditions include snow, ice or a wet road surface combined with temperatures around or below 0 degrees. The police are authorised to make the final decision on whether winter conditions affect a specific road. If there are no winter road conditions, summer tyres are allowed, even between 1 December and 31 March. As weather conditions can not be predicted it is strongly advised to use winter tyres.
- **Antifreeze** - in vehicle windscreen fluid
- **A Shovel** - to clear snow

## Other rules/requirements:

Warning triangle, first aid kit, tow rope, jump leads, reflective jacket and fire extinguisher recommended.

Beware game – moose, deer, etc. – As this constitutes a very real danger on many roads (a yellow warning triangle with a red border depicts animal most common on a particular stretch of road).

Spiked tyres (which must be fitted on all wheels) may be used 1<sup>st</sup> October to the 15<sup>th</sup> April, however, local authorities have the power to ban spiked/studded tyres on their roads. Snow chains may also be used if the weather or road conditions require.

Congestion charges in Stockholm do not apply to foreign registered vehicles.

The use of radar detectors is strictly forbidden.

In some towns and suburban areas, parking restrictions are regulated by the date 'Datumparkering'. On odd days parking is not permitted on the side of the road with odd numbers. On even days, parking is not permitted on the side of the road with even numbers.

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