

Belarus (Eastern Europe)

Touring Tips



The following is additional to our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Driving licence

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive a temporarily imported car or motorcycle.
- Photocard licences are recognised for three months but an [International Driving Permit](#) is recommended.
- An International Driving Permit is compulsory for licences without a photograph.
- Apply for an International Driving Permit here www.theaa.com/idp

Motor Insurance

- Third party insurance is compulsory but fully comprehensive is recommended.
- You must have a Green Card – without one you will be required to take out short term insurance at the border.

Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (80, 92, 95 & 98 octane), diesel (Solyarka) and LPG are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available.
- Up to 20 litres of fuel can be imported free of duty if held in a metal container (must be declared on entry).
- Credit cards are accepted at large filling stations but check with your card issuer for usage in Belarus before travel.

Speed limits

(Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs for private vehicles without trailers)

- Residential zones 12 mph (20km/h)
- Built-up areas 24 mph (40 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h)
- If you have held a driving licence for less than two years you must not exceed 43 mph (70 km/h).

Seat belts

Front seat occupants must wear seat belts if fitted.

Belarus (Eastern Europe)

Touring Tips



Passengers/children in cars

- A Child under 12 cannot travel as a front seat passenger.
- Children under the age of 12 must be seated in a suitable child restraint system.

Lights

You must use lights in poor visibility and when towing or being towed.

Motorcycles

- You must wear a crash helmet.
- You must use dipped headlights at all times.

Drinking and driving

Strictly forbidden, nil percentage of alcohol allowed in drivers' blood.

Fines

The police can fine motorists and demand payment on the spot for minor traffic offences.

You must carry the following in Belarus

- **First-aid kit**
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Warning triangle** - not required for two wheeled vehicles
- **Winter tyres** - The winter period for motorists generally starts in mid-November and ends in mid-March. Winter tyres are compulsory between 1 December and 1 March. Snow chains are permitted.
- **Electronic onboard unit** – For payment of tolls. See below*

Other rules/requirements in Belarus

A road tax between 5 and 300 USD is payable at the frontier.

A small fee/tax is levied on visiting motorists on the M1/E30 Brest-Minsk-Russian border.

* Toll charges were introduced on the main motorways of Belarus on 1 July 2013. When you cross the Belarusian border you should acquire an on-board unit (OBU), which is available at petrol stations and border checkpoints. A €20 deposit is usually required. As soon as you acquire this device mount it on the windscreen and add funds to the OBU account (a minimum

Belarus (Eastern Europe)

Touring Tips



credit of €25 must be added). If there is no OBU in the vehicle you will have to pay a fine of 100 Euro. For more information, please visit <http://www.beltoll.by/en/>

State Traffic Inspectorate officials will stop vehicles to check documents, especially if they are displaying foreign plates. Motorists entering Belarus are advised to ignore 'private facilitators' who offer to help travellers pass through checkpoints and border crossings.

It is recommended that you carry an assortment of spares for your vehicle such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

It is against the law to drive a dirty car and to use a mobile phone while driving.

Radar detectors are strictly prohibited.

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

All foreign visitors are required to purchase health insurance on arrival.

In Minsk, the right hand lane is usually used by trolleybuses.

There are minimal road signs between small towns.

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