

Czech Republic (Central Europe)

Touring tips



*For the
road ahead*

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 over 125cc (max 25kW) and at least 17 to ride a motorcycle up to 125cc.
- Photo card licences are accepted
- If you don't have a Photocard licence you must obtain an [International Driving Permit](#).

Motor insurance

You must have a minimum of third-party cover.

Fuel

- Unleaded petrol 'natural' (95 and 100 octane), diesel (nafta) and LPG (autoplyn or plyn) are available.
- You may carry up to 10 litres of petrol in a can.
- Credit cards are accepted at filling stations but check with your card issuer for usage in Czech Republic before travel.

Speed limits

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

- Built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h)
- Motorways (for vehicles not exceeding 3500kg and buses) 80 mph (130 km/h).
- Expressways that pass through built up areas 50mph (80 km/h)
- Maximum speed with snow chains 31 mph (50km/h)
- At railway crossings you must not exceed 18 mph (30 km/h) for 50m before the crossing. Trains are indicated by red flashing lights/red or yellow flag.
- Vehicles restricted to 49mph (80 km/h) or lower are not permitted on motorways.

Seat belts

Front and rear seat occupants must wear seat belts if fitted.

Czech Republic (Central Europe)

Touring tips



Passengers/children in cars

- Children under 36kg and under 150cm in height must not travel in a vehicle unless using a suitable restraint system, adapted to their size and weight.
- Children must use a suitable child restraint if carried in the front seat. The airbag must be deactivated if the child restraint is rear-facing.

Lights

- You must use dipped headlights or daytime running lights during the day throughout the year and could be fined 2000CZK (About £60) for not doing so.
- Any lights fitted to the vehicle other than those supplied with the vehicle as original equipment, must be made inoperative.

Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights during the day throughout the year.
- Riders of motorcycles and mopeds must wear a crash helmet.
- You must not smoke while riding.

Drinking and driving

- Drinking and driving is strictly forbidden - the legal limit is zero.
- Frequent random testing takes place and the police can also test for drugs by testing saliva.
- This regulation also applies to cyclists.
- Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is considered a criminal offence with fines of between 2500 and 50,000 Czech crown (CZK) and withdrawal of the driving licence for up to two years.

Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be up to 5,000 CZK but the maximum fine for traffic offences is 100,000 CZK. You should obtain an official receipt.
- The police can retain your driving licence if a serious traffic offence has been committed.
- Illegally parked vehicles may be clamped or towed away.

Czech Republic (Central Europe)

Touring tips



It's compulsory to carry the following 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) You must carry a reflective jacket or waistcoat and wear it 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 and therefore must be kept within the car (not in the boot). A reflective jacket/waistcoat is recommended for passengers and riders of mopeds/motorcycles. All pedestrians must wear some form of reflective material in reduced visibility and on unlit roads outside built up areas.

Winter equipment

- Winter tyres (which must be marked M+S) are compulsory from 1 November to 31 March* on all wheels of passenger vehicles when there is compacted snow or ice on the road.
- They are also compulsory whenever the temperature is lower than 4C and there is a possibility of snow or ice on the road.
- These regulations also apply during winter periods on roads where the below sign is placed, even if it is free of snow and ice.
- The minimum tread depth on winter tyres is 4mm.
- Snow chains can only be used when roads are completely covered with enough snow to protect the road surface.



* This period may be extended dependant upon weather conditions.

Other rules/requirements in Czech Republic

Motorway tax

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 3.5tonnes. The sticker must be displayed on the right hand side of the window. Part two of the coupon must be retained as proof of purchase. 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 are imposed for non-display are up to 5000 CZK and on-the-spot.

Czech Republic (Central Europe)

Touring tips



A level crossing is marked with either alternating red and yellow lights, yellow or red flag or the International railway crossing sign.

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

You may only use your horn in built-up areas to avoid imminent danger.

You must not use your horn between 8pm and 6am and at any time in Prague.

You must not use spiked tyres.

A Satnav system must have any fixed speed camera location function deactivated.

The use of radar detectors is prohibited.

Emergency corridor

In the event of an accident and subsequent congestion on a motorway, drivers must form an emergency corridor – at least 3 metres wide – so that emergency services can quickly reach the scene of the accident.

If you're in the left lane you must move over to the left and if you're in the right lane you must move over to the right. If there are more than two lanes, the corridor should be created between [the far left lane and the rest of the lanes to its right](#).

November 2018

Related advice and information

European breakdown cover »

Travel insurance »

Travel money »

Atlases and guides »

General advice - driving abroad »

European low emission zones »

European tolls »

Touring tips country by country »