

# Finland (Northern 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 bigger than 125cc.
- You must be at least 16 years old to ride a motorcycle not exceeding 125cc.

If you've been banned from driving in an EU or EEA country you are not permitted to drive in Finland.

### Motor insurance

You must have at least Third-party insurance cover.

### Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane) and Diesel are available
- LPG and leaded petrol are not available
- SP95-E10 (unleaded 95 octane containing 10% Ethanol) is widely available. E10 isn't suitable for use in all cars. Check compatibility with your vehicle manufacturer or use standard 98 Octane unleaded fuel.
- Leaded petrol is not available.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but check with your card issuer for use in Finland before travel.
- You may carry up to 10 litres of petrol in a can as long as it's the same type of fuel as used in the vehicle.

### Speed limits

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

- Residential zones 12 mph (20 km/h)
- Built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 49 mph (80 km/h) or 62 mph (100 km/h) depending on road quality (49 mph (80 km/h) is the upper limit where there are no signs)
- Motorways 74 mph (120km/h) (no minimum speed)
- During the winter months (October to March) speed limits are generally 12 mph (20 km/h) lower.

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*For the  
road ahead*

### Seat belts

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

### Passengers/children in cars

- A child under 1.35m tall travelling in a car, van or lorry must use a child seat or child restraint.
- A child under three years may only travel without a child restraint if in a taxi.
- If no child restraint is available, a child aged three or more must travel in the rear using a seat belt or other safety device attached to the seat.
- The driver is responsible for making sure that all children under 15 are safely restrained.
- Child restraints must comply with R44/03, R44/04, R129 EU or directive 77/541EEC.

### Lights

You must use headlights or daytime running lights at all times.

### Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights or daytime running lights during the day.
- Drivers and riders (must be 15 years old or more) of mopeds, motorcycles, snowmobiles and trikes or any four wheeled vehicle without a body must wear a crash helmet.

### Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.
- Breath tests and blood tests can be carried out at random. The police test for both alcohol and narcotics.
- Penalties include a fine or imprisonment and withdrawal of your driving licence.

### Fines

- Police may impose but not collect on-the-spot fines (up to €200) for parking and other minor infringements. Fines are payable at a bank within two weeks.
- For more serious offences there is a system of daily fines with a minimum of €6 per day. The amount is based on income.
- Foreign drivers have the right to refuse to give information concerning their income, in which case, the fine will be standard.
- Illegally parked vehicles can be removed in which case the release fee could be up to €165 for the first seven days and €26 per week thereafter. The car will become the property of the town after 30 days. Wheel clamps are also in use.

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### You must carry the following in Finland

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

### Other rules/requirement in Finland

Radar detectors are prohibited.

You may use spiked tyres between 1 November and the first Monday after Easter. If used, they must be fitted on all wheels.

You may use snow chains in appropriate conditions but must not damage the road surface.

Game (elk, reindeer, etc.) is a very real danger on some roads. Any incident involving an animal must be reported to the emergency services.

You must not sound your horn in towns and villages except in cases of immediate danger. If necessary you should use your horn and/or headlights at bends and intersections where there is reduced visibility.

In towns where streets are cleaned on a regular basis road signs will tell you which day the street must be kept clear of parked vehicles for cleaning. Cars obstructing the cleaning vehicle will be removed. A recovery fee applies.

February 2016

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