

# Latvia (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 (over 125cc).

### Motor Insurance

You must have at least third-party cover.

### Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 & 98 octane), diesel and LPG are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available but petrol with lead substitute is.
- You may carry spare petrol in a can but will have to pay duty.
- A special diesel fuel with a very high congealing point is available in winter.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but you should check with your card issuer for usage in Latvia before travel.
- Cash payments are only accepted in local currency.

### Speed limits

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

- Residential areas 12 mph (20km/h)
- Built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h)
- Dual carriageways 62 mph (100 km/h)
- There are no motorways in Latvia

### Seat belts

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

### Passengers/Children in cars

- Children less than 1.5m tall must use a suitable child restraint or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.

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### Lights

- You must use dipped headlights during the day.

### Motorcycles

- You must use your dipped headlight during the day.
- Riders must wear a crash helmet.

### Drinking and driving

- The legal limit is 50 milligrams of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood.
- A lower limit of 20 milligrams applies to drivers with less than 2 years' experience.
- The police can test for alcohol and narcotics and penalties are severe.

### Fines

- The police can issue on-the-spot fines, known as a 'report of administrative offence' but they cannot collect these fines. You have to pay the fine or lodge an appeal within 30 days.
- The police control speeds very closely and are known to give fines for even the slightest of speeding offences.

### You must carry the following in Latvia

- **First aid kit**
- **Reflective clothing** – you must carry reflective clothing and anyone leaving your car in the event of a breakdown or other emergency must wear it if visibility is poor and at night. This also applies to cyclists and motorcyclists.
- **Fire extinguisher**
- **Warning triangle**
- **Winter tyres** – compulsory from 1 December to 1 March on vehicles up to 3.5tonnes.

### Other rules/requirements in Latvia

You must not use spiked tyres between 1 May and 1 October.

We recommended that you carry an assortment of spares such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs.

There are very few sign posts and road markings in Latvia.

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You must not use radar detectors or anything else that interferes with police equipment.

We recommend using guarded car parks wherever possible.

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