

Netherlands (Western 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.

Motor insurance

You must at least have third-party cover.

Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 and 98 octane), diesel and LPG (Autogas) are available.
- Leaded petrol is not available but you can buy lead substitute petrol as 'super' 98 octane. You may carry petrol in a can but must not do on board a ferry.
- Credit cards are accepted at most filling stations but you should check with your card issuer for use in the Netherlands 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 49 mph (80 km/h) or 62 mph (100 km/h)
- Motorways 80 mph (130 km/h) (minimum 37 mph (60 km/h))

Seat belts

- Front and rear seat occupants must wear seat belts, if fitted.
- If no seat belts are fitted in the front then front seat passengers must be taller than 1.35m.
- If no belts are fitted in the rear then rear seat passengers must be at least 3 years old.

Passengers/children in cars

- Children up to the age of 18 and less than 1.35m tall must use an appropriate child restraint approved to ECE 44/03 or 44/04.
- You may not carry children under 3 years old unless they are in an appropriate child restraint.
- You must deactivate any passenger airbag before carrying a child in the front passenger seat using a rear facing child seat.

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Lights

- It is recommended that you use dipped headlights during the day.
- You must not drive at night using sidelights only.

Motorcycles

- It is recommended that you use dipped headlights during the day.
- Riders of all motorcycles capable of more than 25km/h and drivers/passengers of open micro-cars without seat belts 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 new drivers for the first five years and to moped riders under 24 years of age.
- Penalties are severe and include a fine, withdrawal of your driving licence and imprisonment.
- In some cases a blood test will be necessary after a breath test.

Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be imposed.
- For illegal parking the police can impose and collect an on-the-spot fine or tow your vehicle away.
- Vehicles can be confiscated in more severe speeding and drink drive cases.

Other rules/requirements in the Netherlands

We recommend that you always carry a warning triangle because you must use one and/or hazard warning lights in case of an accident or breakdown.

You must give way to buses leaving bus stops in built-up areas.

You must give way to trams unless traffic lights indicate otherwise.

Beware of large numbers of cyclists and skaters.

You must not use spiked tyres.

You must not use a radar detector and if you are caught using such a device by the police it will be confiscated and you will be fined €430.

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You should not use your horn at night and should only use it in moderation during the day. Penalties for misuse of the horn are severe.

You can obtain parking discs if required from local stores.

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