

Slovakia (Central Europe)

Touring tips



Read this alongside our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Driving licence

You must be at least 18 years old to drive a temporarily imported car and 17 to ride a temporarily imported motorcycle larger than 50cc.

Insurance

- You must have at least third-party motor insurance cover.
- You must also be able to show proof of medical insurance cover at the border

Fuel

- Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel (Nafta) and LPG are available
- Leaded petrol is not available
- You may carry spare petrol in a can and can import up to 10 litres without having to pay duty.
- LPG vehicles must have a combustion safety certificate.
- Credit cards are accepted at filling stations but you should check with your card issuer for usage in Slovakia before travel.

Speed limits

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

- Motorways and expressways outside built-up areas 80mph (130km/h)
- Motorways and expressways in built-up areas 55mph (90km/h)
- Other roads outside built-up areas 55mph (90km/h)
- Other roads in built-up areas 31mph (50km/h)

You must not exceed 30 km/h on and within 30m of a level crossing.

The minimum speed on motorways is 40mph (65km/h) in urban areas and 49mph (80km/h) elsewhere.

Seat belts

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

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*For the
road ahead*

Passengers/children in cars

- You must not carry a child under 1.5m tall or under 12 years of age in the front seat.
- Children younger than 12 years of age or under 1.5m tall must use an appropriate child restraint.

Lights

- You must use dipped headlights during the day.
- If you have any lights fitted to your vehicle that were not supplied with the vehicle as original equipment they must be made inoperative.

Motorcycles

- You must use your dipped headlight during the day
- Riders on machines over 50cc 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 for both alcohol and narcotics.
- Penalties are severe and include a fine, withdrawal of your licence and imprisonment.
- You may be obliged to give a blood sample depending on the result of a roadside breath test.
- If you refuse an alcohol or drugs test you could face a heavy fine or a driving ban.

Fines

- On-the-spot fines can be imposed and an official receipt should be provided.
- If you park illegally your car may be clamped or towed away.

You must carry the following in Slovakia

- **First aid kit**
- **Warning triangle** (not required for two-wheeled vehicles)
- **Winter tyres (M+S type)** – compulsory whenever roads are covered with compacted snow or ice and must have a minimum tread depth of 3mm.
- **Reflective jacket** (required for two-wheeled vehicles too) – if you or a passenger get out your vehicle on any road outside built-up areas, at any time of day or night as a result of a breakdown, puncture or accident you must wear a reflective jacket approved to EN471. You could be fined up to €150 if you don't.

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Other rules/requirements in Slovakia

You must clear ice and snow from your vehicle before moving to avoid endangering other road users.

You must not use a radar detector.

The authorities at the frontier must certify any visible damage to a vehicle entering Slovakia. You will be given a certificate which you will have to show when you leave.

If you damage your vehicle while inside Slovakia and the damage is estimated at more than €4000 or if injury or a fatality has occurred, you must obtain a police report at the scene of the accident. You will have to show this report at the border before you can take a damaged vehicle out of the country.

The Slovak Police warn drivers to be wary of people approaching your vehicle at border crossings and petrol stations near the border, who may cause damage to tyres and then offer their 'assistance' further down the road when the tyre goes flat.

You may use snow chains but only where there is enough snow to protect the road surface..

You may only use your horn to warn of danger or to signify your intention to overtake.

If you use a sat nav you must not place it in the middle of the windscreen or anywhere else where it could impede your view of the road.

You must always give way to trams.

Motorway tax

You will have to pay a motorway tax and display a sticker on the right hand side of your windscreen to use some highways and motorways if your vehicle weighs under 3.5tonnes.

You can purchase the sticker at border crossings or from some filling stations and post offices for periods of one year, one month or 10 days.

You could be fined for not displaying the sticker and must remove old, expired stickers.

If you drive a mobile home weighing more than 3.5tonnes you can purchase the motorway tax sticker as if for a private car if the registration certificate shows that it has a maximum of 9 seats (including the drivers).

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