

Sweden (Northern Europe)

Touring Tips



This information should be read in conjunction with our [general advice for motoring in Europe](#).

Driving licence

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive a temporarily imported car
- A UK driving licence without a photograph will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport.
- A UK driving licence is not valid in Sweden, if you also have a valid or revoked Swedish driving licence.

Motor Insurance

You must have at least third-party cover

Fuel

- Unleaded - Blyfri (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel is available. LPG is not used in Sweden for fueling cars.
- **E85** Bioethanol 85% + petrol 15% E85, which can be used by flexi-fuel cars only, is available at most petrol stations. **E10** Bioethanol 10% + petrol 90% will gradually replace 95 Octane petrol, this fuel is not suitable for all cars and you should [check compatibility](#) before using.
- Credit cards are accepted at filling stations, check with your card issuer for usage in Sweden before travel.
- Safety regulations dictate that no more than 30l of fuel can be carried in spare cans.

Speed limits

Speed limits are not based on the type of road, but on the quality and safety of the actual road itself. This means that speed limits may vary along the same road so it is important to pay particular attention to road signs.

(The lowest speed limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers)

- Built-up areas 18 mph (30 km/h)
- Outside built-up areas 43 mph (70 km/h)
- Motorways 55 mph (90 km/h).
- Vehicles with trailers must never exceed 49mph (80 km/h). If in doubt, or if no speed limit is indicated, drivers are advised to keep to 70km/h until you pass a speed limit sign.

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Seat belts

Compulsory for front / rear seat occupants to wear seat belts, if fitted.

Passengers/Children in cars

- Children up to approx. 3 years old must use a rear-facing child restraint placed in either a front or back seat
- A rear facing baby seat may only be used in the front seats if the air-bag has been deactivated.
- Children aged under 15 or under 1.35m must use an appropriate child restraint. The only exception is that they are permitted to travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available.
- A child less than 1.40m tall is permitted to travel in the front seat of any vehicle only if the passenger seat airbag is deactivated.
- A child aged 15 and over, or above 1.35m in height may use an adult seat belt.

Lights

- You must use dipped headlights during the day and could be fined for inadequate lighting.
- Four wheeled vehicles parked or stopped on a poorly lit road during the hours of darkness, including dawn and dusk, and in bad weather, must have their parking lights switched on (front and rear). However, if the vehicle has stopped in a dangerous position due to an accident or breakdown and there is heavy traffic on the road, hazard lights must be used.

Motorcycles

- You must use dipped headlights during the day.
- Riders must wear crash helmets

Drinking and driving

- The maximum permitted level of alcohol is 19 millilitres in 100 millilitres of blood.
- If the level of alcohol is 20 millilitres or more severe penalties include fines, withdrawal of licence and / or prison.
- Random breath tests are carried out and drivers must always submit to a test if requested by the police.

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Fines

- Police can impose but not collect fines on the spot for minor traffic offences. However, as a non-resident you may be asked to pay cash on the spot, if so a receipt will be issued
- Fines must be paid at a bank within 2-3 weeks.
- Illegally parked vehicles may be towed away and the release charge is up to 1,400 SEK.

The following are compulsory equipment in Sweden:

- **Winter tyres** – From 1 December to 31 March, you must use winter tyres (marked M&S) with a minimum tread depth of 3mm in winter road conditions. This period varies according to weather conditions. Winter road conditions include snow, ice or a wet road surface combined with temperatures around or below 0 degrees. The police are authorised to make the final decision on whether winter conditions affect a specific road. If there are no winter road conditions, summer tyres are allowed, even between 1 December and 31 March. As weather conditions cannot be predicted it is strongly advised to use winter tyres.
- **Screenwash additive** to prevent freezing of windscreen fluid
- **A Shovel** - to clear snow

Other rules/requirements in Sweden:

A first aid kit, tow rope, jump leads, reflective jacket and a fire extinguisher are all recommended. A warning triangle is recommended as vehicles registered in Sweden must carry one.

Beware game – moose, deer, etc. as this constitutes a very real danger on many roads (a yellow warning triangle with a red border depicts the animal most common on a particular stretch of road).

Spiked tyres (which must be fitted on all wheels) may be used between 1 October and 15 April, however, local authorities have the power to ban spiked/studded tyres on their roads, particularly in some towns. Snow chains may also be used if the weather or road conditions require.

Congestion charges in Stockholm and Göteborg apply to foreign registered vehicles. The Swedish Transport Agency has contracted a third party to administer and send charges to the registered keeper of foreign registered vehicles. Payment of the charges can be made by card by visiting www.epass24.com

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*For the
road ahead*

The use of radar detectors is strictly forbidden.

In some towns and suburban areas, parking restrictions are regulated by the date 'Datumparkering'. On odd days parking is not permitted on the side of the road with odd numbers. On even days, parking is not permitted on the side of the road with even numbers.

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