

Sweden (Northern Europe)

Touring Tips



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

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive a temporarily imported car 18. NOTE UK driving licences, which do not incorporate a photograph, will not be recognised unless accompanied by photographic proof of identity e.g. passport. A foreign e.g. UK driving licence is not valid in Sweden, if you also have a valid or revoked Swedish driving licence.

Motor Insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Fuel: Unleaded - Blyfri (95 & 98 octane) and Diesel is available, very limited LPG availability. **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 soon be available, 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. Speed limits may subsequently vary along the same road. It is therefore recommended to pay particular attention to road signs. The lowest speed limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers. In 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 there is no speed limits indicated, drivers are advised to keep to 70km/h until you pass a speed limit sign.

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

Passengers/Children in cars: Children aged under 15 or under 135cms must use an appropriate child restraint. There is only one exception in that they are permitted to travel unrestrained in the rear of a taxi if the right child restraint is not available. A child aged 15 and over, or above 135cms in height may use an adult seat belt.

A child less than 135cm is permitted to travel in the front seat of any vehicle only if the passenger seat airbag is deactivated.

A rear facing baby seat may only be used if the air-bag has been deactivated. Children weighing up to 13kg must use a baby restraint facing backwards and can be placed on the front or back seats. It is only permitted to have the child seat forward facing once the child weighs more than 18kg.

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Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Fines will be imposed 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: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. Wearing of crash helmets is compulsory.

Drinking and driving: If the level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent 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.

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

Compulsory equipment in Sweden:

- **Winter tyres** – From 1 December to 31 March, it is compulsory to 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 can not be predicted it is strongly advised to use winter tyres.
- **Antifreeze** - in vehicle 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 recommended. A warning triangle is recommended as its carriage is compulsory for vehicles registered in Sweden.

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 1st October to the 15th April, however, local authorities have the power to ban spiked/studded tyres on their roads,

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particularly in some towns. Snow chains may also be used if the weather or road conditions require.

Congestion charges in Stockholm and Göteborg will apply to foreign registered vehicles from the 1st January 2015. The Swedish Transport Agency has procured a third party to administer and send charges to the registered keeper of foreign registered vehicles.

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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