



LATVIA (Eastern Europe)

This information should be read in conjunction with “General advice for motoring in Europe”

Drinking and driving: The maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream for drivers with more than 2 years experience is 0.05 per cent. For drivers with less than 2 years experience the maximum permitted level of alcohol in the bloodstream is 0.02 per cent. Penalties are severe if the levels are exceeded.

Driving licence: Minimum age at which a UK licence holder may drive temporarily imported car and / or motorcycle (over 125cc) is 18.

Fines: The police cannot collect fines on the spot. Police control speeds closely and gives fines for even the smallest of speeding offences.

Fuel: Unleaded petrol (95 octane), diesel and LPG available. No leaded petrol, petrol with lead substitute available. Petrol in a can permitted (duty payable). Visa and MasterCard accepted at most filling stations; check with your card issuer for usage in Latvia before travel. Cash payments only accepted in local currency.

Lights: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory.

Motorcycles: Use of dipped headlights during the day compulsory. The wearing of crash helmets is compulsory for both driver and passenger.

Motor Insurance: Third-party compulsory.

Passengers/Children in cars: Child less than 1.5m in height must use restraint system appropriate to size and weight or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.

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

Speed limits: Standard legal limits, which may be varied by signs, for private vehicles without trailers: In built-up areas 31 mph (50 km/h), outside built-up areas 55 mph (90 km/h), dual carriageways 62 mph (100 km/h). In some residential areas the speed limit is 20km/h.

Special features: First-aid kit, fire extinguisher and warning triangle compulsory. Winter tyres are compulsory from 1 December until the 1 March. Spiked tyres are prohibited 1 May until the 1 October. It is recommended that visitors carry an assortment of spares for their vehicle, such as fan belt, replacement bulbs and spark plugs. NOTE Latvia has very little signposting and road markings.

January 2008



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