



## Travelling in Latvia

### General info:

**Population:** 2.1m

**Area:** 64,600 sq. Km

**Currency:** Lat (100 santimi) - LVL

**Top 10 popular attractions:** Rundāle Palace and Museum  
Aglona Basilica  
Old Riga  
Jurmala city  
The Historical Centre of Kuldīga  
Gauja National Park  
Turaida Museum Reserve  
Ventspils  
Liepāja  
Cēsis Old Town

### Essentials

#### Driving licence:

Visitors riding or driving in Latvia must have reached the minimum age required to drive/ride a vehicle of equivalent category even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence. You must be 18 or over to drive a private motor vehicle in Latvia.

All EU driving licences are recognised.

#### Important documents:

Vehicles from the UK may be imported into Latvia for up to 6 months in any period of 12 months. When driving in Latvia the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence\* (with paper counterpart)
- Proof of Insurance (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C certificate)

While driving in Latvia you are required by law to carry the following items. Hefty on-the-spot fines can be issued for failing to carry specific items:

- Headlamp beam deflectors (Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually)
- A first-aid kit & fire extinguisher is compulsory aboard all motor vehicles
- Warning triangle (Any motor vehicle travelling in Latvia, regardless of country of registration, must carry 2 warning triangles)
- All vehicles must have their lights on day and night
- Reflective Jacket (for use when walking on the road at night or daytime)
- Motorcyclists (Safety helmets are compulsory for drivers and passengers of mopeds and motorcycles)

#### Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover & Travel Insurance before you leave. Call RAC European Breakdown Sales on: 0800 015 6000. Call RAC Travel Insurance on: 0870 333 2784

#### Useful Numbers:

Emergency Services: 112 (SMS 114)  
RAC Breakdown Europe: 00 33 472 43 52 44

#### Useful Links:

- <http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>
- <http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>
- <http://www.racshop.co.uk/driving-in-europe.html>

## Rules of the road & regulations

### Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

The regulations conform with the 1968 Road Traffic Convention.

Many roads have a hard shoulder which slower vehicles pull into to allow faster vehicles to pass.

- **Priority**

The regulations conform with the 1968 Road Traffic Convention.

### Snow chains:

From 1st December to 1st March, winter tyres are compulsory for vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes and their trailers.

Spiked tyres are prohibited from 1 May to 1 October. There is no special speed limit for cars with spiked tyres.

### Seat belts:

It is compulsory to wear seat belts on all seats equipped with a belt.

### Travelling with children:

Children under 150 cm in height must use a special seat or the lap strap of an adult seat belt.

### Speed limits:

#### In built-up areas:

50 km/h

(in residential areas: 20 km/h)

#### Outside built-up areas:

	On normal roads	On dual carriageways
Motorcycle, Vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes	90 km/h	100 km/h*
Vehicles up to 7.5 tonnes with trailer Vehicles over 7.5 tonnes	80 m/h	90 m/h

\*A speed of 110 km/h is allowed where signs indicate

### Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**

The police can issue a fine on-the-spot and demand immediate payment of fines.

### Parking:

- **Parking Regulations**

In towns motorists must take care not to park on tram lines.

Parking at the side of the road against the traffic flow is permitted on roads with only one lane of traffic in each direction and without tram line in the middle.

Theft of cars and visible valuable articles left in cars is common. It is therefore advisable to use guarded car parks whenever possible.

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

The police can collect fines on the spot.

- **Disabled parking access**

There are reserved parking spaces for the disabled which are sign posted. These may also be used by foreign disabled motorists provided they are in possession of the blue badge.

*Source: All information in this document is sourced from the AIT (Alliance Internationale de Tourisme) & the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile) and, to the best of the RAC's knowledge, is correct at the time of publication (August 2013).*

## Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international three-colour system of traffic lights is used in Latvia.

## Drink/drug driving:

- **Legal limit**

The legal limit for drivers is 0.05% alcohol in the blood.

- **Alcohol**

The police can stop a vehicle and ask the driver to take a test for alcohol or drugs.

A driver must not refuse to be breathalysed; otherwise the penalties are very severe.

## Roads & fuel

### Availability of fuel

Fuel is quite easily obtainable both in and outside main towns.

The main petrol companies are Neste, Shell, Statoil and Texaco. There are a number of 24-hour petrol stations in Riga.

A special winter diesel fuel with a very high congealing point is available in winter.

- **Price of fuel  
(April 2014)**

<b>Unleaded petrol (95 octane)</b>	1.295 EUR per litre
<b>Unleaded petrol (98 octane)</b>	1.337 EUR per litre
<b>Diesel</b>	1.269 EUR per litre
<b>LPG</b>	0.553 EUR per litre

- **Means of payment**

Most service stations accept Visa and Mastercard. Cash payment is accepted in local currency only.

## What RAC can do for you

RAC offers great value, flexible RAC European breakdown (<http://www.rac.co.uk/breakdown-cover/european-breakdown-cover/>) cover tailored to meet your needs. We also offer comprehensive travel insurance (<http://www.rac.co.uk/insurance/travel-insurance/>), including cover for medical expenses, baggage, personal money and belongings \*. Whilst away, use our Route Planner (<http://www.rac.co.uk/route-planner>) for all your driving directions.

## RAC can cover you against vehicle break down in Europe, with options available to suit your travelling requirements.

RAC European breakdown cover Basic and Comprehensive cover provides you with a wide range of benefits.

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