



Travelling in Poland

General Info

Population: 38.4m

Area: 312,685 sq. km

Currency: Zloty (100 groszy) - PLN

Top 10 popular attractions: Wawel Castle
Auschwitz-Birkenau
Masurian Lakeland
Slowinski Sand Dunes
Malbork Castle
Wieliczka Salt Mine
Bialowieza Forest
Gdansk Old Town
Warsaw Old Market Place
Main Market Square

Are you covered?

Don't forget to buy your RAC European Breakdown cover on: 0800 015 6000.

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.racshop.co.uk/driving-in-europe.html>

Essentials

Driving licence:

Visitors riding or driving in Poland must have reached the minimum ages laid down for residents of Poland even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence.

A valid UK licence is accepted for stays up to 6 months.

International driving permits (1949 or 1968) are recognised but not compulsory

Important documents:

When driving in Poland the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence* (with paper counterpart)
- Proof of insurance/green card (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C certificate)

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

- Warning triangle: Compulsory in every vehicle with 4 wheels or more
- Headlamp beam deflectors: Depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually
- Lights: It is compulsory for all motor vehicles to use dipped headlights or daytime running lights, day and night, all year round
- Motorcyclists: Motorcyclists or moped riders and their passengers, must wear a crash helmet at all times. A child up to the age of 7 years may ride a motorcycle or moped as a passenger without a helmet if the speed does not exceed 40km/h
- Reflective jacket: Although it is not compulsory for foreign registered vehicles, foreign drivers renting a car in Poland will have to make sure the hired vehicle is fitted with a jacket

Rules of the road & regulations

Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

Drive on the right, overtake on the left. A driver must show his intention to overtake or to change lanes by indicating.

Overtaking is prohibited:

- In the face of oncoming traffic
- At intersections
- At bus or tram stops
- At uncontrolled pedestrian and cycle crossings
- At railway crossings
- Where space does not permit overtaking without risk

Trams must be overtaken on the right. Drivers may use the part of the road provided for trams but they must free it as soon as a tram or other vehicle on rails approaches. At tram stops where there are no pedestrian islands, drivers should stop to allow passengers to walk safely between the tram and the pavement.

- **Priority**

At the intersections of roads of equal importance, traffic from the right has priority, except in the case of vehicles on rails which take precedence over other traffic.

Vehicles already engaged in roundabout traffic have right of way over approaching vehicles.

At the approach of an emergency vehicle (police car, fire engine, ambulance) with the signals in action (flashing blue lights and two-tone siren), drivers should give way and make its passage as easy as possible.

- **Warning of approach**

Use of the horn is forbidden in towns, except in cases of immediate danger.

Towing:

Caravans, camper vans and luggage trailers can be temporarily imported without customs documents. However the importer must have a list in duplicate of the contents in order to assist Customs officers.

The following dimensions for vehicles with trailers must not be exceeded:

Height: 4m

Width: 2.55m

Overall length: 18.75m

Seat belts:

The wearing of seat belts is compulsory for the driver and front seat passenger of all vehicles travelling on hard surfaced roads, both inside and outside built-up areas. The wearing of rear seat belts is compulsory in vehicles which are equipped with belts at the rear.

Travelling with children:

Children under the age of 12 years old and less than 150cm in height must be restrained by a seat belt adapted to their size or seated in a special seat. If the car is equipped with airbags at the front, it is prohibited to place a child in a rear facing seat on the front passenger seat.

Speed limits:

In built-up areas the speed is split between the hours of 05:00 to 23:00 (50km/h) and 23:00 to 05:00 (60km/h) unless indicated by signs. In residential zones speed should be kept to 20 km/h.

Outside built-up areas:

	Motorway	Express road with 2x2 lanes	Express road with 2x1 lane	Dual carriage-way	Other road
Private car, motorcycle, lorry up to 3.5 t	140 km/h	120 km/h	100 km/h	100 km/h	90 km/h
Car towing a trailer or caravan	80 km/h	80 km/h	80 km/h	80 km/h	70 km/h

Anti-radar equipment which interferes with specific radio frequencies to jam police signals is prohibited.

Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**
The police can impose a fine and collect the amount on-the-spot if the motorist is not a resident in Poland.

Parking:

- **Parking regulations**
Parking regulations follow those given in the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic.

Waiting (up to one minute) and parking are prohibited where the vehicle might cause an obstruction or endanger other road users
- **Enforcement of parking regulations**
Wheel clamps are used in Poland.

Illegally parked cars causing an obstruction may be towed away and impounded at the expense of the owner.

In both cases the driver is subject to a fine.
- **Disabled parking access**
Disabled motorists holding a disabled driver's card/badge are entitled to special parking concessions. They can park the vehicle in areas where parking is normally restricted or prohibited.

The disabled card/badge must be displayed behind the windscreen of the vehicle.

Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**
The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

Drink/drug driving

- **Legal limit**
The maximum level of alcohol in the blood permitted is 0.02%. Every driver with more than 0.02% alcohol in the blood is considered incapable of driving any vehicle.
- **Alcohol**
The police are empowered to carry out random breath tests. A test is compulsory in the case of a serious motoring offence or after an accident which has caused injury.

Availability of fuel

There are filling stations in all towns and large villages. Most are open from 08:00 to 19:00. In large towns and along international routes, stations are open 24 hours a day.

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

Unleaded petrol 95 octane	5.15 PLN per litre
Unleaded petrol 98 octane	5.25 PLN per litre
Diesel	5.11 PLN per litre
LPG	2.30 PLN per litre

- **Means of payment**

Visitors can buy petrol with PLN or pay by credit card.

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. 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