



## Travelling in Sweden

### General Info

**Population:** 9.5m

**Area:** 449,964 sq. km

**Currency:** Swedish Krona (plural "Kronor") or Crown (100 öre)

**Top 10 popular attractions:** Stockholm  
The Stockholm Archipelago  
Gothenburg  
Malmö  
Ice Hotel  
Kosterhavet  
Marstrand  
"Wallander's Ystad"  
Skåne  
Visby/Gotland

### Essentials

#### Driving licence:

Any driving licence issued in any European country is valid in Sweden, as long as it is valid in the issuing country.

A foreign driving licence does not entitle the holder to drive a car in Sweden until the age of 18yrs old.

A visitor less than 16yrs of age may ride a motorcycle in Sweden if his national driving licence allows him to do so.

International Driving Permits (1949, 1968) are recognised.

#### Important documents:

When driving in Sweden 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 Sweden 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 deflector: 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 during daytime, all year round and on all roads
- Warning Triangle: It is compulsory for foreign registered vehicles to carry warning triangles if so required in the country of registration
- Motorcyclists: A safety helmet must be worn by the driver and passenger of a motorcycle or moped. This also applies to passengers in side-cars

#### 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**

Drive on the right, overtake and pass on the left.

The rules conform with Article 11 of the Convention on Road Traffic (Vienna 1968).

Trams may be overtaken on the right if the position of the rails so permits. Where there is no refuge at a tram stop, a driver of a vehicle behind the tram must stop to allow passengers to board and alight from the tram. There are currently only three cities with trams: Stockholm, Göteborg and Norrköping.

Overtaking on the right is also permitted in the following cases:

- When driving on a road with two or more lanes in the same direction and where the maximum permitted speed is 70 km/h or below
- When the driver of the vehicle being overtaken has clearly signalled his intention to turn to the left

- **Priority**

Vehicles driving on roads designated and signposted as primary roads always have the priority.

On all other roads, vehicles must give way to the right. This rule is sometimes ignored, especially by vehicles driving on roads regarded as major roads, which may cause dangerous situations.

Priority is given to vehicles which are already on the roundabout i.e. vehicles coming from the left.

- **Warning of approach**

The use of the horn is permitted only when an audible warning is required to prevent an accident; it should otherwise be avoided.

### Towing:

Caravans, camper vans and luggage trailers may be imported temporarily without formality.

The maximum dimensions for caravans are:

**Height:** No limit

**Width:** 2.60 metres

**Overall length of towing vehicle & trailer:** 24 metres

It is possible to leave a caravan trailer in Sweden for up to 1 year, provided the importer leaves Sweden within 3 months of their arrival.

### Seat belts:

If the vehicle is equipped with seat belts, it is compulsory to use them. This applies to both front and rear seats of the vehicle.

It is not allowed to transport more passengers than what is stated in the vehicle's registration document.

### Travelling with children:

Children shorter than 135cm must be seated in a child restraint or a child seat. If the child is taller than 135cm the driver must ensure that the child uses a normal seat belt.

Children shorter than 140 cm are allowed in the front seat only if the passenger-seat airbag is turned off.

### Winter driving:

From 1 December to 31 March all vehicles (also trailers and vehicles > 3,5 t total weight) must use winter tyres marked M+S (with or without spikes) when there are winter road conditions - that is, the road is covered with ice or snow, or the road is wet and the temperature is around or below 0°C. This applies also to vehicles registered abroad.

It is permitted to fit and use snow chains on any kind of vehicle in Sweden if the weather or road conditions so require.

It is compulsory for drivers to have some antifreeze in the vehicle windscreen fluid and a shovel to clear the snow. It is recommended to have also a tow rope, some jump leads and a reflective jacket.

### Speed limits:

There are speed limits on all roads. They are no longer based on the category of road, but on the quality and safety of the actual road itself. Speed limits may consequently vary along the same road. Road signs on both sides indicate when the speed limit will change. Reminding road signs will appear at frequent intervals.

#### **Motorcycle, private car, campervan (< 3.5t)**

Built-up areas: 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70km/h

Outside built-up areas, including expressways: 70, 80, 90 or 100km/h

(if in doubt, or if no speed limits are indicated, drivers are advised to keep to 70km/h until a speed limit sign turns up)

Motorways: 90, 100, 110 or 120km/h

#### **Private car & caravan**

##### **Any vehicle towing trailer/s with effective brakes**

When one trailer is towed, speed must never exceed 80km/h.

When two trailers are towed, speed must never exceed 40km/h

*Equipment which searches for mobile speed cameras or interferes with police equipment is prohibited.*

*Automated speed cameras are used on many roads. Only the driver can be held responsible for speed violations. If a speed violation is registered by a speed camera, the owner of the car is not legally enforced to state who was driving.*

### Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**

The police are authorised to impose and collect on-the-spot fines for minor traffic offences. Fines are generally paid at a bank, normally within 2-3 weeks. Non-residents may be asked to pay cash to the policeman (if so, a receipt will be issued. Credit cards are not accepted).

- **Confiscation of vehicle**

Vehicles can be confiscated in certain serious cases, e.g. if they are stolen or have been subject to fraud or other criminal activity.

### Parking:

- **Parking regulations**

Parking regulations follow Article 23 of the 1968 Convention on Road Traffic. Where the Convention sign C.18 (a circular sign with a blue background) indicates that parking is prohibited, stopping is allowed, e.g. to load or unload goods. A circular sign with a red St. Andrew's cross on a blue background surrounded by a red border (signal C.19 of the 1968 Convention on Road Signs and Signals) prohibits stopping and parking.

Parking and stopping are allowed in the direction of the traffic flow only. On one-way roads both sides may be used.

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

Parking fines range from 400 to 1000 SEK. Police and local authority attendants are responsible for enforcing regulations on streets and public roads. A payment request is attached to the windscreen. The owner of the vehicle is responsible for ensuring that the fine is paid within the stipulated time. A motorist wishing to contest the fine must contact the local police authority immediately.

- **Disabled parking access**

Special parking permits issued to disabled motorists in a foreign country are recognised in Sweden on condition that the permit carries the international symbol of a person in a wheelchair.

Holders of a valid permit may park anywhere in Sweden but must not park their vehicles in such a way that obstructs traffic or may cause danger.

## 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 for the driver of a motor vehicle is 0.02%.  
  
If the level of alcohol in the blood exceeds 0.02% a fine will be imposed. With a level between 0.02 & 0.1%, a driver risks a heavy fine and a prison sentence up to 6 months. In all cases, foreign driving licences will be stamped with 'Not valid in Sweden' for a period depending on the severity of the case.  
  
A level of alcohol exceeding 0.1% is considered as severe drunk-driving and a jail sentence of up to 2 years may be expected.
- **Test**  
Random tests are carried out and drivers must always submit to a test at the request of the police, even if there are no grounds for suspicion.  
  
The most common method of testing is by means of breathalyser. If the breathalyser test indicates levels of alcohol exceeding 0.02%, additional blood and/or urine tests will be performed at the nearest police station.

## Availability of fuel

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

|                                    |                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Unleaded petrol (92 octane)</b> | 29.80 RUB per litre |
| <b>Unleaded petrol (95 octane)</b> | 33.10 RUB per litre |
| <b>Unleaded petrol (98 octane)</b> | 36.49 RUB per litre |
| <b>Diesel</b>                      | 32.30 RUB per litre |
| <b>LPG</b>                         | 15.50 RUB per litre |

- **Means of payment**  
All petrol stations accept international credit cards.

## 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.

\* Basic, Standard and Executive RAC Travel Insurance policies are sold, administered and underwritten by ACE European Group Limited. RAC Financial Services Ltd is an Agent of ACE European Group Ltd (ACE). RAC Travel Insurance Driving cover is sold and administered by RAC Financial Services Ltd. RAC Financial Services Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, registered in England No. 5171817. Registered Office: RAC House, Brockhurst Crescent, Walsall, WS5 4AW. RAC Travel Insurance Driving cover is underwritten by ACE European Group Limited (ACE). ACE is authorised by the Prudential Regulatory Authority (PRA) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulatory Authority reference number FRN 202803. Full details can be found online at the FCA websites or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.