



## Travelling in Russia

### General Info

**Population:** 143.4m

**Area:** 17,075,400 sq. km

**Currency:** the Rouble (divided into 100 kopeks) - RUB

**Top 10 popular attractions:** Trans-Siberian Railway  
 Mount Elbrus  
 Valley of Geysers  
 Kizhi Island  
 St Sophia Cathedral, Novgorod  
 Lake Baikal  
 Suzdal  
 Moscow Kremlin  
 Hermitage Museum  
 Saint Basil's Cathedral

### 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 Russia must have reached the minimum ages laid down for residents of Russia, even if they are qualified to drive at a lower age in their country of residence.

A foreign driving licence does not entitle the holder to drive a car in Russia until the age of 18 years & a motorcycle until the age of 16.

An International Driving Permit (1949) is required to travel in Russia.

#### Important documents:

When driving in Russia the following documents should be carried:

- Full, valid driving licence\* (with paper counterpart)
- International Driving Permit (available from [www.RAC.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit](http://www.RAC.co.uk/travel/driving-abroad/international-driving-permit))
- Proof of insurance/green card (third party or above)
- Proof of ID (passport)
- Proof of ownership (V5C certificate)
- Russian VISA/Transit

While driving in Russia 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 on board all motor vehicles.
- Headlamp beam deflectors: depending on your car, you will either need deflector stickers or have to adjust the beam manually.
- First aid kit & fire extinguisher: compulsory in all motor vehicles.
- Spare bulbs
- Motorcyclists: helmets are compulsory when riding on a scooter or a motorcycle.

Please note that it is forbidden to carry a passenger on a scooter, except for children up to the age of 7 travelling in a special seat.

## Rules of the road & regulations

### Rules of the road:

- **Overtaking & passing**

Drive on the right, overtake on the left.

In large towns, it is prohibited to turn left other than at crossings with lights.

- **Priority**

Traffic coming from the right has priority at roundabouts, unless otherwise signposted.

Priority must be given to convoys of vehicles and to emergency vehicles using flashing lights. Trams and buses also have right of way.

- **Warning of approach**

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

### Towing:

It is advisable to draw up an inventory of the contents of a trailer or caravan, although not required.

### Seat belts:

The wearing of seat belts is compulsory when fitted in the vehicle, for the driver and any passengers.

### Travelling with children:

It is prohibited to carry a child less than 12 years of age in the front seat of a car when there is no special child restraint.

It is also prohibited to carry a child less than 12 years of age on the rear seat of a motorcycle.

### Speed limits:

The following national speed limits apply:

	In built-up area	Expressways	Other roads
Motorcycle & vehicles up to 3.5t	60 km/h*	110 km/h	110 km/h
Vehicles with trailers	60 km/h*	90 km/h	70 km/h

\* 20 km/h in residential areas or as sign posted

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

### Penalties:

- **On-the-spot fines**

Fines must be paid through a bank. **It is illegal to pay cash.**

- **Confiscation of vehicles**

Vehicles may only be confiscated following a court decision. Vehicles may be temporarily confiscated or withdrawn from circulation, for example for forensic tests.

### Parking:

- **Parking regulations**

Stopping and parking are allowed on the right-hand side of the road, with the vehicle facing in the direction of the traffic flow. Car parks and parking metres are available in towns.

Stopping and parking are allowed on the left-hand side in urban areas & in one-way streets, if there are no tram lines in the middle of the street.

Parking on the pavement may be allowed where this does not endanger pedestrians.

Outside urban areas, lengthy parking, for example spending the night in the vehicle, is allowed only in the specially allocated parking places situated off the roads. Parking alongside national highways is not allowed.

Stopping and parking are prohibited within 5m of a pedestrian crossing or an intersection, as well as in places where visibility is reduced (e.g. on a slope or a bend). Parking is also prohibited within 50m of a level crossing.

- **Enforcement of parking regulations**

Fines are issued for parking offences and the police can remove an illegally parked vehicle. Wheel clamps are used.

- **Disabled parking access**

There are parking places reserved for vehicles used by disabled persons. They are indicated by the letter P and the international symbol of the wheelchair.

### Traffic lights:

- **Traffic lights**

The international 3-colour traffic light system is used.

### Drink/drug driving

- **Legal limit**

Since 6 August 2010, no amount of alcohol is tolerated in the blood of drivers. The legal limit is now 0%.

Driving under the influence of drugs is also prohibited.

- **Alcohol**

Breathalysers are used by the police.

In one of the Moscow districts, police can carry out tests on the saliva of drivers for the presence of narcotics. If the test is positive, the driver is then taken to a clinic for further tests. (After a trial period, it is planned to extend this form of drugs testing to the whole country.)

### Availability of fuel

Unleaded petrol, generally at 92 and 95 octane, is available in western Russia. LPG (propane-butane and methane) is available at a few stations and mostly used by Russian taxis and lorries.

Motorists are advised to fill up their tank whenever possible and to carry a spare can 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**

In Moscow, credit cards are accepted; otherwise, payment must be made in cash.

### 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