

When driving in Poland, you will notice that traffic is heavy and the standard of the road infrastructure is not high. Regular traffic jams are common in the major cities. Outside cities it is common to drive on roads with only one lane in each direction. There is also a narrow lane for slower driving vehicles on both sides. Be aware of pedestrians and cyclists who use it frequently.

For your own safety, always call the police if you are involved in a traffic accident. Make sure to return to the place of an accident if you have to leave the place to call for assistance. If you do not return, you put yourself at risk of being charged with escaping from the scene.

Under Polish law, it is not mandatory to have a first-aid kit in the car. You are obliged to give life-saving first aid, if you become involved in or aware of a traffic accident. It may be mandatory to have a first-aid kit in the car when transiting through other countries (e.g. Germany).

These are the main traffic rules:☐

Maximum speed within cpopulated areas marked with this sign is 20 km/h.



Maximum speed within built-up areas is

- 50 km/h from 5.00 a.m. to 11.00 p.m.
- 60 km/h from 11.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.



Maximum speed outside built-up areas:

- 90 km/h,
- 70 km/h for lorries/trucks and cars with trailers.



□ Maximum speed for passenger cars on:

- Dual carriage ways (double lane, but no specific sign) and single-lane expressways – 100 km/h,
- Dual-lane expressways - 120 km/h,
- Motorways -140 km/h.

Expressway



Motorway



- □□ For trucks, lorries and cars with trailers the speed limit on the above ways is always 80 km/h.
- □ In case measurement is made by a speed camera, the legally allowable error of a driver is set at 10 km/h.
- There are many roundabouts in Bydgoszcz, and the rules on giving way differ. Be aware both of the square roundabouts (they come as a surprise for some) and of trams which pass through several roundabouts.
- In most intersections controlled by traffic lights, you are allowed to turn right even though your traffic lane is red, providing there is a green arrow. Before turning, you have to stop and give way to traffic from the left and to pedestrians.

Additionally:

According to Polish Traffic Regulations, the permissible legal blood alcohol level is up to 0.2 per mille. The blood alcohol level between 0.2 and 0.5 per mille is an act of offence. The blood alcohol level above 0.5 per mille is an act of crime. Please note that you are required under

Polish law to let yourself be tested.

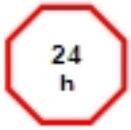
- It is forbidden to use a hand-held mobile phone while driving.
- It is compulsory for both the driver and the passengers to wear seat-belts while driving. Exceptions: pregnant women, taxi drivers, and medical support service.
- Children up to 12 years of age, and not taller than 150 centimeters (4.92 feet) of height must be carried in special booster seats adjusted to weight, height and technical conditions.
- Headlights must be switched on at all times while driving.

If stopped by a Police Officer, you must drive up to the place indicated by him/her and you have to wait for instructions. You are expected to stay in the car and keep your hands on the steering wheel and wait for other instructions. Passengers are required to remain in the car, unless otherwise instructed by the Police Officer. In the conditions of sufficient visibility, a uniformed Police Officer gives the stopping signal with a special shield stop sign or with a hand signal. In the conditions of insufficient visibility, after dusk, the uniformed Police Officer gives the stopping signal with the use of a red-light flashlight or a reflective, red-light shield stop sign. In non-built up areas the uniformed Police Officer may stop your vehicle in an open space. Police Officers in plain clothes may stop you only in an urban built-up area. If you are suspicious that a fake Police Officer is trying to stop you (e.g. at night in the forest) you are allowed not to stop there and drive slowly to the nearest police station.

The Traffic Police patrol Bydgoszcz on foot and by car. Some streets in the centre of Bydgoszcz are also under surveillance. Polish Police Officers wear many different kinds of uniforms, depending on their service, branch and function.

The Polish Police can fine you up to 500 PLN (up to 1000 PLN if your act or behaviour constitutes more than one minor offence) on the spot for one traffic offence. Fines are to be paid immediately (unless you have registered yourself with the local authorities). If you do not have enough cash, you must deposit a personal document with the Police Officer, find the nearest bank or cash machine and pay the fine. The Polish authorities run a system of penalty points. However, in case of a traffic offence, when you drive on a foreign driving licence, you will receive a regular fine and the penalty points will not be added to your driving licence.

When driving a motorcycle, you must have a driving license - category A. It is mandatory to wear a crash helmet, but no additional protective gear is required by law.



If you are certain that you will not use your car at night, Bydgoszcz Traffic Police suggest that you put this sticker in the rear window. If a Police Officer spots the sign on a car at night (from 11.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m.), the car will routinely be stopped and checked.

BICYCLES/ PEDESTRIANS

Bicycles are becoming increasingly popular, and there are many tracks around Bydgoszcz marked especially for bicycles and for recreation.

The Local Traffic Police recommend that bicycles be marked by the Police (engraving of a number) in order to prevent thefts. Under Polish law, you are not allowed to drive a bicycle if you have been drinking alcohol (the same limitations as for driving a vehicle - see above).

Pedestrians are also obliged to follow the Polish traffic regulations. Use a zebra crossing when you want to cross a street. There are two exemptions:

- You are allowed to cross the street in any other place, if the distance to the nearest zebra crossing is more than 100 meters; you are then required to cross the street at a 90° angle to the axis of the road.
- You are allowed to cross the street on the crossroad, even if there is no zebra crossing. You are not allowed to cross the street on the crossroad within the city borders, if it is a two-way street or a street with a tramline.