



# Driving in Finland

# Plan your route

Prefer main roads. Don't rely solely on Google Maps or other internet route planners. They can plot a route appearing shorter, but going through lesser roads which in winter can be heavily coated in snow and impassable – even with a 4x4.

Obtain information on the route you plan to use.

Check where to stop for fuel, food and rest along the way. In rural areas service stations can be few and far between.

Check the weather forecast and take possible warnings seriously: avoid driving in extreme conditions.





## Be prepared

Be aware that road conditions in Finland might be different than you are used to – especially in winter.

Winter tires are mandatory in Finland in winter months.

Clear your car of ice and snow from the hood, roof, windows, mirrors and lights.

Keep a snow brush and an ice scraper in the car. A snow shovel is a good idea too.

Know your AC settings. Use your AC to clear foggy windows. Preheat if possible in sub-zero conditions.

# Reach your destination safely

Wear your seatbelt. This applies to all passengers.

Keep your full attention on the road. Do not use your phone when driving.

Only drive when sober. DUI is a crime.

Do not drive when tired.

Know the traffic rules – In Finland we drive on the right and overtake from the left.

Follow the speed limits. Drive at speed that is safe for the weather and road conditions.

Keep a safe following distance.



# Suomi - Finland



## Watch your speed

The general speed limit is 50 km/h in urban areas, 80 km/h in rural areas.

Road traffic signs can set speed limits that may be lower or higher than these.

Take note that the speed limit is the absolute maximum not a target. Adjust your speed to the conditions.



## Driving in poor conditions

Snow, sleet and ice can cause extremely dangerous road conditions in Finland. In winter the weather can change rapidly so stay on top of weather reports.

In foul weather slow down and increase your following distance.

Avoid sharp steering and harsh braking manoeuvres.

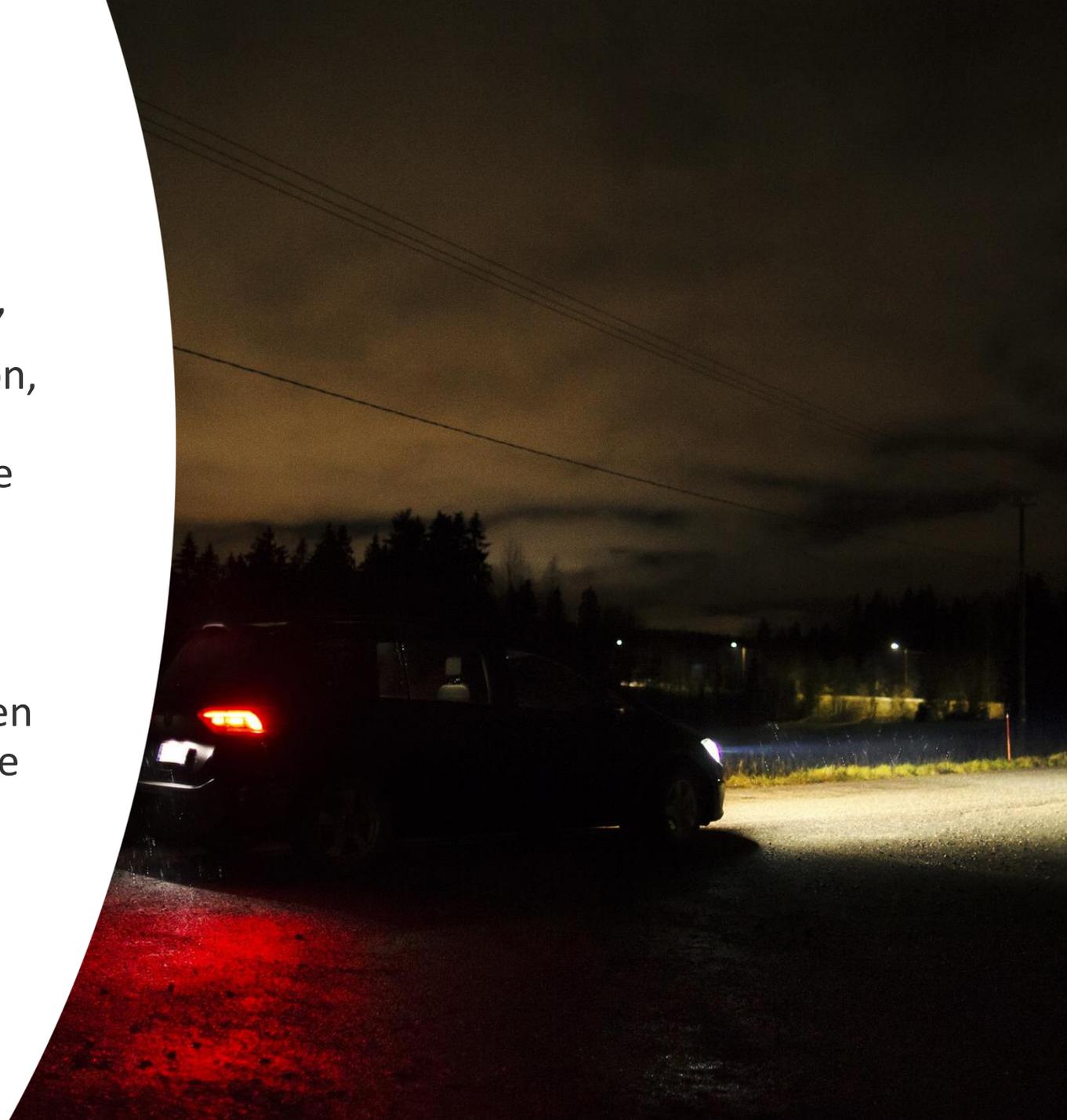
# Driving in poor visibility

Use your lights.

Turn your headlights on, don't rely on 'Auto' settings. If only daytime running lights are on, the taillights can be off. Especially in poor weather it is important that the taillights are on.

When it is dark, use high-beams on unlit roads.

Don't dazzle. Switch to low-beam lights when a vehicle approaches or you are driving close behind a vehicle to avoid blinding the other driver.





## Don't become a road hazard

Keep your eyes on the road at all times.

If you are on the lookout for northern lights, sights or your hotel, keep your safety and the safety of others in mind.

Do not stop your vehicle in the middle of the road. Stop or park in designated turn off areas or lay-bys.

Do not leave your car unlit on the road.

# Respect private areas

Respect road closures and private roads. Off-road driving is forbidden.

Stay on your own lane. Some roads are narrow and require keeping as far right as possible.

If you are driving at a slower speed and a queue is forming behind you, it is polite to pull into a lay-by and let them drive past.

There are several different signs indicating that you are not allowed to go into a particular area or road. On the right some of them:

Closed to all vehicles / No power-driven vehicles / No entry.





## Mind the wildlife

Take wildlife warning signs seriously.

The signs are located in high wildlife use areas. When driving in signed areas, stay extra vigilant and reduce your speed.

Between dusk and dawn when light levels are low, animals are often active.

Watch out for reindeer when driving in the reindeer husbandry area.

If you hit a reindeer or a wild animal, call 112.

## Be prepared in case of an accident

Keep a flashlight, a reflective vest and something warm to wear in the car. In remote areas it may take a while before help arrives.

If your car breaks down or you have an accident: turn off your headlights, turn on the warning lights and set up the warning triangle.

If you need help, call 112 or place the call through the 112 Suomi mobile app. It transmits your location information to the emergency services.





## Travelling with children

By law children under the height of 135 cm must use a child safety seat.

The Finnish Road Safety Council recommends that children travel in a booster seat until they reach a height of 150 cm.

A rear-facing child seat is safest for children at least until the age of four.