A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright orange winter jacket and a patterned scarf, is walking a small white dog on a leash. They are in a snowy residential street. In the foreground, there is a large, out-of-focus white object with two red, pointed shapes, resembling a snow-covered fence or a decorative element. The background shows snow-covered trees and buildings. The overall scene is bright and wintry.

Finland on foot

– advice and road rules for visitors

Use pedestrian paths

In Finland pedestrians are to use areas designated for pedestrians: footpaths or pavements. Do not walk on cycle paths or on the street.

Be considerate towards other road users and mind your luggage – do not block the street, give way when necessary.

Don't rely solely on Google Maps or other internet route planners when planning where to go. Respect private areas.





Road signs

Sign for pedestrian path. Pedestrian paths are not always marked separately.



Sign for divided path for pedestrians and cyclists. The sign indicates which side is for pedestrians and which side is for cyclists. Use the correct side.



Sign for shared path for pedestrians and cyclists. On a shared path pedestrians can choose their side: either the left or the right side of the path. Cyclists ride on the right-hand side.

Remember you are sharing the road – respect everyone's journey.

Signs for residential zone (top) and pedestrian zone.

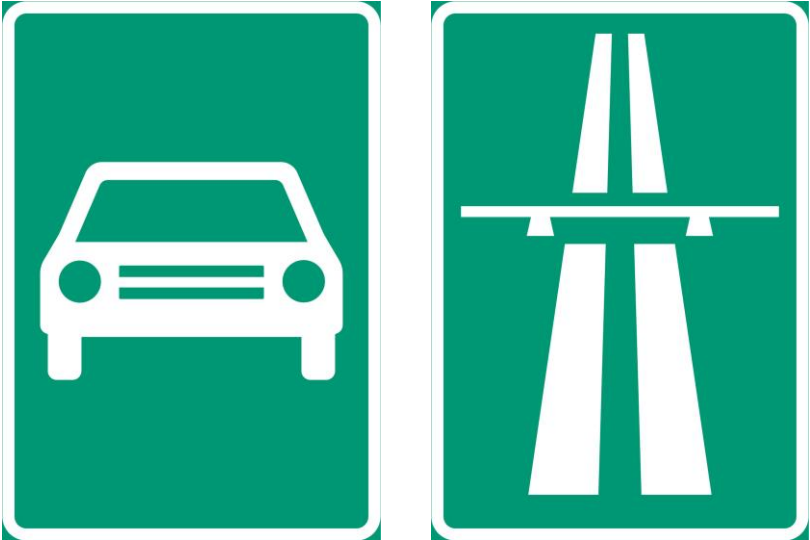
Walking, cycling and driving is allowed. The driving speed must be adjusted to the pedestrians and cannot exceed 20 km/h.



Road signs forbidding walking.



It is also forbidden to walk on motorways and roads for motor vehicles.





Walking on rural roads

If there is no footpath use the verge of the left side of the road.

If there is no verge, walk on the left side of the road where you are facing oncoming traffic. Unless the right side is safer for some reason.

On unlit rural roads it is vital to enhance your visibility – wear reflectors or a reflective vest.

Cross the road safely

Cross streets only at designated areas: at a pedestrian crossing or a pedestrian overpass or underpass.

Look both ways before you cross. Obey traffic lights, do not jaywalk.

If there is no pedestrian crossing – think whether it is safe before you cross. Just because someone else just went there does not mean it is safe. Look both ways and wait until all vehicles have passed before you cross.





Be seen

Enhance your visibility by wearing reflectors or a reflective vest when walking after dark in both lit and unlit areas.

Reflectors can be bought in supermarkets, gas stations, pharmacies etc. Maybe even at your hotel.

Be extra vigilant at intersections and when crossing the road in the dark.

Take extra care

Do not let mobile phones distract your attention. Stop in a safe place to check your phone or take pictures.

If an emergency vehicle approaches with emergency lights flashing and/or sirens on, stay off the road.

Be alert when you see a snowplow. Avoid walking too close to snow removal operations.

When getting off a bus, never cross the road directly in front of it.





Play it safe – don't go sledding near roads

Don't play or go sledding on roadside snow banks. Choose play areas away from roads, parking lots and water.

Make sure the landing area is safe. Never sled towards other people or traffic.

Stay away from snowplows and snow blowers. Snowplow drivers or other drivers may not see you.